



ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARDS THE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF RURAL WOMEN

BI-ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 30 JUNE 2019

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| <p align="center">Programme Title & Project Number</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme Title: Accelerating Progress Toward Economic Empowerment of Rural Women in <i>(add country)</i> MPTF Office Project Reference Number:¹ 00092002 | <p align="center">Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results</p> <p><i>Kyrgyzstan</i></p> <p>The strategic result is to secure rural women’s livelihoods and rights in the context of sustainable development and the SDGs.</p> |
| <p align="center">Participating Organization(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FAO, IFAD, UN Women, WFP | <p align="center">Implementing Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Labour and Social Development of the Kyrgyz Republic Ministry of Agriculture, Food Processing and Melioration of the Kyrgyz Republic Local self-government administrations NGO “RAS Chui-Talas” (RAS ChT) NGO “RAS Jalal-Abad” (RAS JA) NGO “Insan Leilek” NGO “Community Development Alliance” (CDA) Southern branch of Republican Health Promotion Centre of the Ministry of Health of the KR Village Health Committees |
| <p align="center">Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</p> <p>Total approved budget as per project document: 2,538,255</p> <p>MPTF Contribution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>UN Women: USD 963,321</i> <i>UN FAO: USD 688,089</i> | <p align="center">Programme Duration</p> <p>Overall Duration 5 YEARS</p> |

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

- UN WFP: USD 684,845
- IFAD: USD 202,000

Agency Contribution

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

Government Contribution

(if applicable)

Other Contributions (donors)

(if applicable)

TOTAL:

Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.

Assessment/Review - if applicable *please attach*

Yes No Date: *January 2018*

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

Yes No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy*

Start Date (*01 10 2014*)

End Date (*31 12 2019*)

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NARRATIVE REPORT FORMAT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (max ½ page)

In January 2019, the implementing partners began mobilization of 700 beneficiaries into self-help groups (SHGs). This was done through organization of information meetings with village residents. As a result, 65 SHGs comprised of 708 beneficiaries (652 women and 56 men) were organized in 14 villages of Jalal-Abad, Osh and Batken provinces (30, 13 and 22 SHGs, respectively). As of end June, 700 beneficiaries were mobilized (649 women and 51 men). The 65 new SHGs underwent trainings on group solidarity, development of group statute/charter, rules and regulations, establishment of group revolving saving funds (ranging from KGS450 to 2,500), management of SHG needs. The groups have selected their leaders, treasurers and secretaries, who will organize group meetings, fill out group journals. The groups meet on a monthly basis, the monthly contributions to the group fund ranges from KGS50 to 100. The new SHGs (along with SHGs of the 2nd cohort) underwent trainings on new agro-technologies and on-going consultations, business planning, financial literacy and income generation. In addition tangible inputs were provided, including food items to ensure food-security of households, and drip irrigation systems, green house accessories for select self-help groups.

Programme participants have started engaging in income generating activities in the areas they have selected and received training for. The main areas of work include poultry, bakery, sewing, packaging of dried fruits, ready-to-cook food ("pelmeni"/dumplings), milk processing. As a result, approximately half of SHGs have started their small enterprises, employing women from the respective SHGs. The revolving group funds have grown and now range from KGS2,000 to 20,000, which they use for both loans to group members (at 5% or interest free) and non-group members (at 10% interest rate).

Initiative groups from 21 municipalities attended the Schools of Leadership on gender issues, as a result of which they have drafted gender-sensitive activities to be included in their local development strategies. The knowledge and skills acquired during the School of Leadership have been applied during 15 round tables organized by the representatives of SHGs, which emphasized gender issues and gender-sensitive strategizing and budgeting at the municipality level.

GALS has been scaled up in 10 villages (7 villages of cohort 3, 3 villages of cohort 2) in Osh and Djalal-Abad provinces. 10 champions from the target villages were selected and trained in a GALS catalyst workshops on the four basic GALS tools: Vision, Vision Journey, Happy Family Tree, Income Increase Tree. This enabled the champions to engage men and women peers from their communities in the GALS process. In addition, four staff of RAS JA (UN Women Implementing Partner) were also trained in the catalyst workshops. This allowed to perform better joint monitoring of the GALS processes by both CDA and RAS JA. A better understanding of GALS process by other parties will also potentially lead to leverage it in the other components of the Joint Programme. By the reporting period, all four tools had been shared and used by champions, who also received regular mentoring and technical support from CDA. The total number of beneficiaries of the GALS process is 1013 direct beneficiaries (839 women and 174 men). A GALS master class on was conducted during the conference devoted to the National Rural Women's Day on July 2, 2019 in Aksy, Djalal-Abad province. More than 80 people participated in the Master Class.

The BALI (Business Action Learning for Innovation) methodology was developed to help four Women's Producer Organizations (POs) participating in the JP RWEE, and the participating SHGs, to improve their financial literacy and develop new business initiatives. Total direct beneficiaries have been 1,673 and indirect 3,346. The BALI process is based on five tools: Business Innovation Visioning, Business Innovation Challenge Action Tree, Happy Business Tree, Business Innovation Marketing, Business Management Calendar. Members of the four POs were trained to use the tools and received consultations and support from CDA. The tools helped POs to identify innovative business ideas and evaluate their potential profits, challenges and ways of solutions and also to develop management plans of the innovation business projects. By the reporting period, 10 innovative business projects have started within the four POs.

I. Results (max 2 pages)

Outcome 1 Rural women have Improved food and nutrition security

At the end of 2018, JP RWEE programme partners selected 14 new villages in Osh, Jalal-Abad and Batken provinces. Based on an assessment of 1,000 beneficiaries belonging to the 2nd cohort conducted by UN Women's implementing partner (RAS JA), 431 women (from the previous phase of the programme) were mobilized into 51 self-help groups and trained on the basics of entrepreneurship. Since January 2019, RAS JA began mobilizing the 3rd cohort of beneficiaries, including 649 women and 51 men, who united into 65 self-help groups in the selected villages.

From WFP side, each of the participants received 150 kg of fortified wheat flour and 15 litres of vegetable oil, which in total amounted to 114,661 MT of food (105 MT of wheat flour and 9,661 MT of vegetable oil). Two Village Health Committee members from each of the 14 target villages underwent a refresher training in nutrition organized in coordination with the southern branch of the Republican Health Promotion Centre in Osh and have been provided with a Guidance book for disseminating knowledge on nutrition. The trained Village Health Committee members have conducted nutrition awareness-raising activity among the 700 project participants in their communities during March and April 2019 and have distributed handout materials on nutrition among them.

Other support provided by FAO included vegetable seeds and drip irrigation equipment distributed and installed among 14 target village-level associations of self-help groups (ASHGs) on demo-plots in March-April 2019. Female-headed households have received mini-plastic tunnel greenhouse accessories (MPTG) in March-April and attended a number of trainings: on water-saving technologies (in total, 28 trainings for 692 beneficiaries, including 662 women and 30 men) in June 2019, on vegetable production techniques (including one theoretical and one practical session; 28 trainings in total covering 668 women and 32 men).

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

To address the knowledge and skill levels of SHG members, two types of trainings – “Basics of business planning” and “Business planning, budget and economic analysis” – were provided to the beneficiaries of the 2nd and 3rd cohorts between 02.03.2019, and 03.30.2019. 53 SHGs of cohort 2 and 65 SHGs of cohort 3 took part in the training. 686 participants of self-help groups attended Training 1 and 645 participated in Training 2. The topics covered by the trainings included business planning and accounting, calculation of costs and profitability of products, local conditions for running a business, business opportunities.

WFP's Cooperating Partner “Insan Leilek” has conducted a needs assessment exercise jointly with the 700 programme participants in 14 target communities to identify their needs and opportunities for income generation activities. Following this exercise, the self-help groups have received skills training in the following identified areas: sewing, bakery, poultry farming, vegetables and fruit drying, milk processing, wool processing, production of frozen food, handicraft. Although during the needs assessment exercise the SHG members have discussed a few other income generation areas as well, eventually they have decided to select the above areas based on their available resources, capabilities and local demand and marketing constraints. Although FAO had initial plans to conduct the training in poultry and handicraft, in coordination with FAO for effective use of resources, an agreement was reached to conduct these trainings by WFP as a part of its integral “Income generation and small business development” activity, which includes needs assessment, training and mentorship. This also enabled FAO to channel its resources for high-quality agricultural training activities.

During the reporting period, 700 women received skills and knowledge trainings in the areas of business planning, financial literacy and income generation, including in sewing, cooking, poultry farming, milk processing, etc. The Programme participants have started engaging in income generation activities in their selected areas. As a result, approximately half of SHGs have started their small enterprises that employs women from the respective SHGs. The main areas of work include poultry, bakery, sewing, packaging of dried fruits, ready-to-cook food (dumplings), milk processing. The revolving group funds have grown and by mid-year ranged from KGS2,000 to 20,000, which they use for loans both to group members (at 5% or interest free) and non-group members (at 10% interest rate). The needs assessment exercise and issues raised during the training and mentorship activities showed that the SHGs require equipment support for achieving better results in income generation. Although purchasing equipment was not a part of the initial plan, due to savings that were secured from training activities, a decision was made to support at

least some of the groups with necessary small-scale equipment. 58 self-help groups have submitted business plans for equipment support from WFP for their community level income-generating initiatives. Through a competitive process, 15 SHGs were selected by a Selection Committee that included RWE program focal points from WFP, UN WOMEN and FAO. The selected SHGs will receive equipment to advance their business ideas in the following 5 areas: sewing, bakery, poultry farming, production of semi-frozen food, and packaging of dried fruits and vegetables.

Monitoring at the beginning of the programme showed that average food expenditure share was 77%. Categorization of households according to food expenditure share index shows that 63% of households are in severely food-insecure situation and spending more than 75% of their budget on food, 17% of households are moderately food-insecure and spending 65%-75% of their budget purchasing food, 13% of households are marginally food-secure and spending 50%-65% of budget to food, only 7% of households are food-secure and spending less than 50% of their budget for food. Change in food expenditure share will be measured and reported in the annual report. The share of households having inadequate diet ('poor' or 'borderline' Food Consumption Score (FCS)² was 19% at the beginning of the programme. Dietary Diversity Score (DDS)³ shows that on average households consume four food items.

In 2018, WFP worked on opening the processing shops jointly with the local authorities and project beneficiaries to prepare the shops for launching. During the reporting period WFP worked with responsible persons in four sub-district administrations to ensure the completion of remaining repair works in the workshops and prepare the workshops to start the processing activities awaiting the harvest season.

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

A new methodology BALI (Business Action Learning for Innovation) is being piloted in Kyrgyzstan together with the programme's beneficiaries. BALI helped POs to identify and evaluate innovative business ideas, then select most creative, financially viable and profitable ones. BALI also supported PO members to work on strategic business planning in a more simple and easy way, develop financial management plans of the business projects, develop good marketing strategies and of course kick start these innovative businesses. BALI supported the four POs to implement the following innovative business projects:

- Cooperative **Kadam** in Jalal-Abad province: drying herbs (for cooking and medicine); drying plums; chicken farm; language courses; nursery garden; started planting strawberries in the greenhouse in an innovative way: in the bags. This helps them to use the space in the greenhouse in a rational way. They had started selling berries in early spring when local strawberries were not ready yet and thus they were able to get good profit: they sold 560 kg and earned KGS45,000 (USD650) in one season.
- Association **Bar El** in Naryn province: producing potato chips; Kurut (dried yoghurt) with new unconventional flavours like Kurut with beet, carrot and herbs; pillows made of from organic materials and started selling them abroad through a web-site
- Cooperative **Iskra** in Osh province: an e-shop to sell agricultural products of the local farmers (1% of the sales would go as profit for the PO); producing and selling eco-bags to local grocery shops; milk processing; traditional handicraft
- Public Union **Taazhi** in Chui province: producing lagman (a kind of Asian noodles); producing dumplings; opened a poultry farm producing eggs and chicken meat.

The Gender Action Learning System (GALS) is being scaled up by IFAD through their implementing partner (CDA). A total of 10 villages were selected (7 villages of the 3rd cohort and 3 villages of the 2nd cohort). One catalyst workshop on Vision and Vision Journey tools was conducted in Osh on February 21-23, 2019. 20 people participated (15 women, 5 men), including 10 new champions (10 women) and 2 champions from the 1st cohort (1 woman, 1 man). The major changes observed in the participants' lives are listed below:

² Food Consumption Score is a proxy indicator for household food access and food security. The FCS is a composite score based on dietary diversity, food frequency and relative nutrition importance of different food groups consumed during the last seven days.

³ Dietary Diversity Score is 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.

1. Participants have clear Visions and Action plans to achieve the Visions;
2. Improved family relations caused by changes in behavior and attitude of the family members. Particularly, male family members started to recognize women's household burden and unpaid work, unfair distribution of workload and unequal remuneration.
3. Increased economic activism of women/households. GALS helps women to start own or family businesses and thus to improve the economic situation of the household. For example:
 - Shakir Zhunusova (Osh province) visioned to start vegetable/fruit drying workshop. Then she has developed Vision Journey to achieve this Vision and now in the process of the Journey she has developed a business plan/proposal and applied to the Community Development and Investment Agency (Government structure that supports community development) in order to get the equipment for drying vegetables and fruits. She has already prepared a space for the equipment by building it using her own funds. GALS helped her to mobilize family members towards achieving the Vision, to properly plan and start actions, to mobilize resources. She is expecting to get the equipment soon and planning to start her business in 2020.
 - Aizada Mamatalieva (Osh province) had a Vision to enlarge her garden of fruit trees. She has prepared the territory for the garden: put a fence and 20% of the territory is planted with young apple trees. Now, she is studying about the new types of fruit trees, their prices and how to look after them.
 - Kanikey Myrzapayazova (Jalal-Abad province) has opened a bakery shop.
4. Women's and family's practical needs are been addressed. For example:
 - Gulzhan Zhusupbekova (Jalal-Abad province) bought a car recently which resolves many of her practical needs.
 - Patila Aitbaeva (Osh province) had a Vision to arrange a bathroom in her house. She used GALS to develop an action plan which is being implemented now.
 - Family of Sonun Toktomusheva (Jalal-Abad province) have started building a sauna for the family.
 - Gulnaz Halmatova (Jalal-Abad province) and her family has done renovation of the house thanks to saving money from unnecessary expenses they have cut (by stopping buying unnecessary make-up, clothes, etc).
5. Financial literacy of the family members has increased. Participants started recognizing and cutting on unimportant and unnecessary costs they used to have. Saving money and addressing them to achieve family Vision is making them closer to the Visions. Because they are able to purchase needed materials, resources for achieving the Vision.
6. Improved self-confidence and positive attitude towards the future.

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

In December 2018, RAS JA began mobilizing initiative groups in programme's target municipalities to team up the heads or deputy heads of municipalities, social workers of municipalities, representatives of women's councils, elderly councils, members of SHGs for them to work together on promotion of GEWE issues at the local level. The established groups attended two Schools of Leadership on gender issues – in December 2018-January 2019 and April-May 2019, within which they learned the basics of gender issues, and more advanced topics, such as conducting gender analysis of municipality strategic development plans, gender-responsive local strategy development and budgeting. While the School of Leadership was attended, among others, by women-members of the local council, it was revealed that they had limited knowledge of the rights and responsibilities of local council members and learned about them during the School.

In early 2019, RAS JA began mobilizing women activists in the programme's target municipalities, as a result 80 women expressed their desire to more actively participate in the lobbying activities and those related to GEWE at the local level. Having undergone the initial trainings on the basics of gender in February 2019, which provided them with information about the basics of gender issues, gender equality, national and international legal framework related to promotion of gender equality, how to cooperate with local self-governments, these women began engaging in the JP RWEE programme activities. Thus, together with the initiative groups and RAS JA consultants,

women activists have organized 13 rounds tables focusing around gender-related issues in their communities and discussion of their solutions. As a result of the round tables, women activists and the afore mentioned initiative groups have drafted gender-sensitive action plans or sections of the local development strategies, and accompanying budgets, that included activities on promotion of gender equality. With the support of RAS JA consultants, women activists organized local-level public events on promotion of gender equality, challenging gender stereotypes and raising awareness about women's rights. In order to support women activists from all cohorts in raising awareness about women's economic and health rights RAS JA conducted a contest among self-help groups from all cohorts. Out of 22 applications, nine municipalities were selected for a small funding to conduct the activities in Jalal-Abad, Osh and Batken provinces. The events took place between 06.04.2019, and 04.05.2019, and were attended by heads of municipalities, village councils, representatives of district administrations, local residents and staff of the implementing partner. The half-day events included fairs demonstrating and selling the produce made by cohorts 2 and 3 SHGs, forum-theatres on the topic of domestic violence, discrimination against young women in families, and football competitions among women of various age belonging to different SHGs. The number of participants and spectators of each event varied from 114 to 300 people.

In February 2019, 80 women activists were trained to formulate recommendations for relevant policies/laws related to enhancing economic empowerment and support to rural women activists in identifying and lobbying for legislative and policy changes affecting lives or rural women at the local and national levels by responsible party (Rural Advisory Service of Jalal-Abad). Thus, 15 roundtables were conducted in 15 municipalities to bring together women members of the local council and local self-governments to discuss promotion of women's rights and opportunities as well as elimination of violence against women and girls. As a result of these discussions, local workplans have been amended and included the gender-sensitive and gender-responsive activities identified during the round tables.

Representatives of SHGs helped organize and participated in the celebration of the International Women's Day in March and national Rural Women's Day, which highlighted the achievements of various SHGs and select women activists. The events were attended by the representatives of local self-government (heads of municipalities and provinces) and Parliament members. These activities contributed to a dialogue between policy makers (parliamentarians who participated in the events), local self-governments and communities on connecting national policy implementation with real and specific needs of rural women and men.

II. Describe any delays in implementation, challenges, lessons learned & best practices (max 2 pages)

Please add a few examples of challenges and lesson learned that you were able to draw from:

- *An operational perspective (for instance, what was the most difficult aspect of working together? What was the good practice you identified that make coordination work better?)*
- *An implementation perspective (for instance, what has made RWEE particularly relevant for women's economic empowerment as compared to other programmes?)*

In doing so, please also include a short description of the process of learning. How did you identify the challenges, lessons and best practices? And how did you build on this knowledge to improve the implementation as well as operations (for example internal processes within the implementing agencies)? Include a reflection on what M&E and knowledge management strategies were most useful for you to understand lessons learned? What were the challenges in this process?

There were challenges with the coordination of activities among the agencies, including leading more governance and policy level work, as the country team had disruptions in the programme coordination role since the first quarter of 2018. Such a disruption led to the lack of proper quality assurance of programme implementation and coordination. The newly hired programme manager joined the team at the end of April 2019.

The challenges related to management turnover were supplemented by the turnover in the staff of UN Women's implementing partner RAS JA, whose coordinator temporarily left for maternity leave (rejoined in July 2019) and for that period was substituted by a less experienced staff member. This has caused problems in both narrative and financial reporting and a delay in the implementation. It also became apparent that the implementing partner, although very experienced in community mobilization and agricultural consultations, lacked deeper knowledge and

understanding of such topics as women's political participation. This has required much support at the stage of activity concept note, consultant ToRs preparation and revision. The IP also encountered issues in preparing narrative reports, which also required much guidance and multiple revisions.

One of the positive aspects of UN agencies working together was flexibility in arrangement of activities that allowed for efficient use of limited resources. Thus, after NGO "Insan Leilek" has conducted needs assessment in the target communities it was decided that two activities (1.2.4 and 2.1.1) on income-generation to be carried out and funded from the budget of WFP instead of FAO. As a result, FAO was able to increase its coverage for another activity on handicrafts (1.2.5) through reallocation of USD6,300 that were initially planned on poultry and farm management and business trainings (activities 1.2.4 and 2.1.1).

A good example of working together was bringing the issues forward for joint solution and learning from each other's experience in this process. Partner agencies – UN Women and FAO – helped with the selection of self-help groups through a joint competitive assessment of self-help groups business plans for provision of small-scale income generating equipment. During the selection process the set of criteria developed for the business plan competition were jointly revised to ensure that SHGs from more vulnerable communities (such as cross-border communities) received support in launching their small-scale businesses. It is worthwhile to note that all involved UN agency representatives were open for reflection, joint discussion and revision of the criteria. FAO's advice on the procedure of equipment handover to self-help groups and encouraging the self-help groups to return a certain part of the cost of equipment to their revolving funds, once they earn incomes, to provide opportunities for other self-help groups to purchase equipment will be adopted by WFP.

A joint visit to monitor FAO activities within the programme Outputs 1.1 and 1.2, in order to verify whether the project is implemented in accordance with the AWP and fulfils planned objectives, was conducted on 1-4 July 2019. During the joint monitoring visit, FAO and UN Women representatives examined the progress in the selected SHGs in Jalal-Abad and Osh provinces, on following the outputs: 1.1. Rural women have increased access to and control over resources, assets and services critical for their food and nutrition security; 1.2. Rural women have greater capacity to enhance and control local food security reserves and their production (partially).

The beneficiaries were interviewed against their (a) family background, (b) skills and knowledge obtained from the trainings and consultations to date, (c) challenges related with participation in the programme (including family related), (d) satisfaction with the programme activities (e) impact of the programme on their livelihoods, (f) their plans for future, (g) general knowledge and contributions of participating UN agencies. The site visits reveal a good level of technical conditions of farms, usage of appropriate growing technologies. Through face-to-face interviews, anecdotal evidence about that beneficiaries, i.e. rural women participating in the programme, having received the drip irrigation systems, green house accessories, vegetable seeds, as well as having obtained knowledge of good practices and skills of farming and water saving technologies, improved their livelihoods, food security and nutrition status, and increased their potential of income opportunities. The beneficiaries received corresponding consultations on basic financial literacy and keep financial records of family's revenues and spending.

No major challenges were reported from the beneficiaries' side. They reported that family members do support their endeavours, and their husbands, if any, often support them with taking care of children and household chores to free up women's time to dedicate to social and income-generating activities. Overall, the interviewed beneficiaries reported satisfaction with the activities and assistance of responsible consultants, who are in touch with them and are available by phone for any urgent matters.

Yet, it was discovered that some of the interviewed beneficiaries do not maintain financial records. The FAO focal point explained the beneficiaries the necessity of keeping records of income and spending. It is suggested to conduct another joint monitoring visit to other SHGs once the full cycle of activities in the current AWP is implemented.

There were challenges related to the full-fledged launch of four processing workshops provided by WFP due to low capacity of local sub-district administrations in allocating funds as their contributions and completing timely repair works, which delayed the full-scale launch of workshops. The lessons learned from this process was that opening a full-fledged workshop requires contribution and commitment from the side of sub-district administrations and participants to cover repair, refurbishing and equipping the premises with electricity, water, sewage systems and

other technical requirements to meet the state standards for certification. Moreover, running the workshops requires assistance from individuals with entrepreneurial skills to run the business, constantly improve the quality of products and market them. Taking these challenges into consideration for the current groups it has been decided to support them with a smaller scale equipment that the groups could use at the community level, enabling them to grow into formal businesses as they develop and improve their activities.

After a one-year gap in the implementation of the JP, a large part of the self-help groups belonging to the 2nd cohort, i.e., not members of POs, became less active or completely inactive, and had to be remobilized during the reporting period. This testifies to the fact that it is crucial to encourage self-help groups to formalize as members of POs and gain from the opportunities it offers. Province-level producer organizations that manage Revolving Funds play the key role in sustainability of the JP RWEE results on the community level.

III. Qualitative assessment (max 1 page)

Please elaborate on:

- *The partnerships you were able to establish, for instance with other UN Agencies, other International Organizations, private sector, etc. to create synergies and increase the impact of RWEE;*
- *The overall achievement of the JP in **qualitative** terms: how the women, their families and the target communities in general assess the impact the programme has had in their lives; provide details on how the qualitative information on WEE was gathered and analysed. This section should be different from the specific story including concrete and generalizable qualitative evidence;*
- *How you organized the coordination among the four partner agencies and within the UN System (One UN).*

During the reporting period the coordination among the four partner UN agencies was uneven due to turnover in the coordinating personnel and lack of a programme manager for the first four months of the year. Coordination meetings have resumed in April and follow-up on after the programme manager joined the JP RWEE. Regular communication, joint preparation of events, monitoring visits and activities has resumed and are coordinated by the programme manager.

Partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) continued during the reporting period – representatives of the ministry took part in the preparation and celebration of the Rural Women’s Day, speaking at the event and awarding the most active programme beneficiaries and consultants. Moreover, future cooperation between the JP RWEE and the MoA has been discussed with the deputy minister and heads of departments. Thus, the Department of Cooperation of the MoA and the Union of Cooperatives of Kyrgyzstan, with the support of TIKA (Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency) is launching a training centre for cooperatives under the Kyrgyz National Agrarian University in the fall of 2019, which will target managements of agricultural cooperatives, employees of local self-governments and representatives of relevant ministries and agencies. The training courses will be offered for free and cover cooperative management practices, financial management and accounting, agro-technologies, normative and regulatory framework to help cooperatives receive the benefits guaranteed by the state, such as access to land, low-interest loans, exemption from certain taxes, etc. Representatives of the two cooperatives created within the JP RWEE will be able to attend the trainings; the training centre will also be able to provide such courses in the regions after ToTs.

Collaboration and partnership with the southern branch of the Republican Health Promotion Centre of the Ministry of Health of the KR and the Village Health Committees built during the previous stages of the programme implementation was continued in 2018 in conducting nutrition awareness activities among the project beneficiaries, and also enhancing the knowledge of the Village Health Committee members.

A joint monitoring visit revealed high satisfaction with the participation in the JP RWEE among beneficiaries. The rural women actively use funds of voluntary contributions (monthly payments per 50-100 KGS) for their own needs, often on a rotation basis. The self-help groups account for 5-12 members, from 20 to 75 years old. The women became proactive and now make promising plans for future. It is especially pleasant that some make joint income generating plans, such as buying land and work it collectively within SHGs, as they realize that their cooperation would yield higher incomes in the future. In addition, their social live is diversified under the UN Women

component, some of the beneficiaries from SHGs started engaging in sports activities (football competitions, volleyball, etc.), which became another source of inspiration both for participants and village residents. Rural women participating in the programme have improved their livelihood through increased food security and better nutrition of their families and increase in their household income selling their products at local markets.

CDA has closely worked with RAS JA throughout all stages of GALS upscaling in 10 villages in the south. RAS JA has been open to learning about GALS methodology and cooperation. CDA and RAS JA have been consulting each other as much as needed to increase the impact of related components of the JP RWEE: while selecting target villages and champions, conducting the GALS workshops in the villages, monitoring GALS process and consulting champions. Four RAS JA staff members attended GALS catalyst workshops to learn about GALS tools, process and discuss upscaling workplans and schedule together with the champions. They were responsive to any issues that may raise related to the GALS process in the target communities and eager to cooperate with CDA.

ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:

| | | <u>Achieved</u> Indicator Targets | Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any) | Source of Verification |
|--|---|--|---|---|
| Outcome 1 Improved food and nutrition security | | | | |
| | Indicator: Quant: Increase of agricultural production of women farmers Qual: Evidence of improvement of rural women dietary diversity and consumption patterns Baseline: Planned Target: | | | |
| Activities contributing to the output and corresponding indicator | Output 1.1 Rural women have increased access to and control over resources, assets and services critical for their food and nutrition security | | | |
| Activity 1.1.1 Provision of agricultural tools (mini-plastic tunnel greenhouses) 1.1.2 Provision of drip irrigation equipment of 14 demo-plots in 14 villages 1.1.3 Carry out trainings for farmers on water saving technologies | Indicator 1.1.1 Number of rural women utilizing improved production techniques Baseline: 0 beneficiaries Planned Target: 700 beneficiaries | 700 beneficiaries (649 women/51 men) - Mini-plastic tunnel greenhouses provided to 700 beneficiaries - Trainings on water saving technologies carried out - 14 sets of drip irrigation equipment installed for demonstrating of advanced technologies for 700 new beneficiaries | Final report of the service provider has not been submitted yet | Final report of the service provider (will be submitted by the end of September 2019) |
| 1.1.4 Provision of seeds of vegetable crops | Indicator 1.1.4 Number of beneficiaries who had an increase of the yield of vegetables | Indicator targets will be available for the annual report - Seeds have been provided to | Final report of the service provider has not been submitted yet | Final report of the service provider (will be submitted by the end of September 2019) |

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| | Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 700 | 700 beneficiaries | | |
| 1.1.5 Nutrition training | Indicator 1.1.5 Average dietary diversity score Baseline: 4.5 Planned Target: > 6.1 | Indicator targets will be available for the annual report (Food Security Outcome Monitoring planned for October) - Nutrition trainings have been provided to 700 beneficiaries | Final report of the service provider has not been submitted yet | Project monitoring before and after |
| 1.1.6 Provision of fortified wheat flour and vegetable oil | Indicator 1.1.6. Proportion of households with “poor” or “borderline” food consumption score Baseline: 19% Planned Target: 5% with poor/borderline FCS (Decrease in proportion by 80%) | Indicator targets will be available for the annual report (Food Security Outcome Monitoring planned for October) | Final report of the service provider has not been submitted yet | Project monitoring before and after |
| Output 1.2 Rural women have greater capacity to enhance and control local food security reserves and their production | | | | |
| 1.2.1 Technical support by trainers/agronomists (agronomical consultations) 1.2.2 Carry out trainings for farmers on vegetable production technologies 1.2.3 Carry out trainings for farmers on vegetable and fruit processing in home conditions 1.2.5 Carry out trainings for farmers on rural crafts | Indicator 1.2.1 Number of rural women utilizing improved production techniques Baseline: 0 Target: 700 | Indicator targets will be available for the annual report - 700 beneficiaries were provided with seeds: - 1 session – on theoretical part of the training on vegetable production technologies was conducted for 700 beneficiaries (including 668 women and 32 men | Final report of the service provider has not been submitted yet The costs for the seeds were increased. Thus, there was no enough budget for onion and broccoli seeds. Trainings on vegetable and fruit processing in home conditions will be conducted in July and August 2019. Indicator targets will be available for the annual report Trainings for farmers on handicrafts will be conducted in October/November 2019. Indicator | Transfer acts between FAO and beneficiaries (FAO). Financial reports. Final report of the service provider that will be submitted by the end of September 2019 |

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| | | | targets will be available for the annual report | |
| 1.2.4 Carry out trainings for farmers on poultry production technologies | Indicator 1.2.4 Baseline: Planned Target: | This activity was cancelled by FAO due to a similar trainings having been provided by WFP | | Final report of the service provider that will be submitted by the end of November 2019 |
| | Outcome 2 Rural women have increased income to secure their livelihoods. | | | |
| | Indicator: Quant.: Income generated by rural women's cooperatives from their sales to WFP and other markets Qual: Income generated by rural women's self-help groups from their sales Baseline: Planned Target: | | | |
| | Output 2.1 Rural women have enhanced entrepreneurship skills and value chains to access markets for their products | | | |
| 2.1.1 Carry out trainings for farmers on farm management and business skills (planning, marketing, value chains) 2.1.3 Training in Business planning and financial literacy 2.1.4 Guidance and mentoring in small business identification and development | Indicator 2.1.1 number of beneficiaries that have strengthened their entrepreneurial/ business management skills Baseline: Planned Target: | Indicator targets will be available for the annual report - trainings on farm management and business have been conducted - trainings on business planning and financial literacy have been conducted - Guidance and mentorship in small business identification and development have been carried out regularly | Final report of the service provider has not been submitted yet | List of participants. Final report of the service provider that will be submitted by the end of September 2019 |

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| | Output 2.2 Rural women have increased access to decent wage employment opportunities | | | |
| 2.2.1 Needs-based skills training in various income generating areas such as baking, sewing, etc. | Indicator 2.2.1 number of beneficiaries that have strengthened their entrepreneurial / business management skills Baseline: Planned Target: | Indicator targets will be available for the annual report - Trainings on various income generating areas (baking, sewing, poultry farming) have been conducted | Final report of the service provider has not been submitted yet | List of participants. Final report of the service provider that will be submitted by the end of October 2019 |
| Outcome 3: Rural women have enhanced leadership and participation in their communities and in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programmes. | | | | |
| | Indicator: Quant: Number of rural women running for representatives in rural councils Qual: Evidence of rural women's empowerment in intrahousehold decision making Baseline: Planned Target: | | | |
| | Output 3.1 Rural women, including young women have enhanced confidence and leadership skills to participate in local governance | | | |
| 3.1.1 Strengthen leadership skills of rural women, and their understanding of local policy formulation and decision-making processes, leading up to improved gender responsiveness of local development plans based on needs assessment in partner local governments | Indicator 3.1.1 Number of rural women leaders participating in the process of local planning and budgeting Baseline: 0 Target: Indicator 3.1.2 Number of local development plans/budgets developed based on participatory process Baseline: 0 Target: | These indicators will be included in the implementing partner's final report, the data are available 21 initiative groups, including at least 1 women activists, have been established in partner municipalities. These initiative groups developed gender-responsive local development plans and corresponding budgets. | Final report of the service provider has not been submitted yet | List of participants. Final report of the service provider that will be submitted by the end of October 2019 |

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| <p>3.1.2 Support initiatives at community level for identifying and solving issues of local concern from gender perspectives through data collection, dialogues with local governments, lobbying, etc.</p> | <p>Indicator 3.1.2. Number of community initiatives addressing specific needs of rural women Baseline: 0 Target:</p> | <p>This indicator will be included in the implementing partner's final report, the data are available. Various such initiatives have been carried out (round-tables, awareness-raising events, dialogues between local council members and parliamentarians), the total number will be reported after all activities are carried out.</p> | <p>Final report of the service provider has not been submitted yet</p> | <p>List of participants. Final report of the service provider that will be submitted by the end of October 2019</p> |
| <p>Output 3.2: Rural women have greater organizational capacities to form, sustain and participate into POs, cooperatives and unions</p> | | | | |
| <p>3.2.1 Carry out social mobilization of rural women into SHGs, along with the basic trainings on documentation and basics of gender; assist in establishment of community revolving funds; Adapt and implement household methodologies using groups as delivery channel. Conduct training, workshops, integrate the methodologies with programme's intervention</p> | <p>Indicator 3.2.1 Number of rural women mobilized in self-help groups for joint economic activities Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 649 women/51 men</p> | <p>649 women and 51 men mobilized into 65 SHGs</p> | | <p>Service provider's report/database. Photographs. Monitoring visit.</p> |
| <p>Output 3.3: Rural women, including young women, have increased capacity to engage in and influence relevant policy forums at national and regional levels</p> | | | | |
| <p>3.3.1 Capacitate rural women to formulate recommendations to relevant policies/laws related to enhancing economic empowerment and support to rural women activists in identifying and lobbying for legislative and policy changes affecting lives of rural women at the local and national level</p> | <p>Indicator 3.3.1 Number of rural women participating in policy lobbying activities at local and central levels Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 80</p> | <p>This indicator will be included in the implementing partner's final report, the data are available</p> | <p>Final report of the service provider has not been submitted yet</p> | <p>List of participants. Final report of the service provider that will be submitted by the end of October 2019</p> |

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| | Output 3.4: Rural women, including young women have enhanced awareness on their rights in a more supportive community/local environment. | | | |
| 3.4.1 Raise awareness on rural women's rights (land, water, health, education, etc.) through informal women's councils, forums and platforms for communication, legal literacy, community radios, and other consultative mechanisms | Indicator 3.4.1 number of rural women who have increased knowledge of their rights Baseline: Planned Target: | This indicator will be included in the implementing partner's final report, the data are available | Final report of the service provider has not been submitted yet | List of participants. Final report of the service provider that will be submitted by the end of October 2019 |
| 3.4.2 Continue rolling out GALS/Household methodology using self-help groups as a delivery entry point | Indicator 3.4.2 Number of households receiving the GALS tools and engaged in joint economic activities Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 4,725 of households receiving the GALS tools and engaged in joint economic activities | Target achieved: 1,013 GALS beneficiaries together with 1,673 BALI GALS beneficiaries, plus 3,346 indirect beneficiaries = total 6,032 | Final report of the service provider has not been submitted yet | List of participants. Final report of the service provider that will be submitted by the end of September 2019 |
| Outcome 4: A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women | | | | |
| | Indicator: Qual.: Evidence that policies and strategies include gender equality objectives and address the barriers to women's economic advancement Baseline: Planned Target: | | | |
| | 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. | | | |
| 4.1.1 Conduct trainings and learning events for relevant government stakeholders, parliamentarians on gender-unequal laws and policies | Indicator 4.1.1.1 Number of learning and advocacy events conducted Baseline: Planned Target: Indicator 4.1.1.2 Number of policy-makers participated in the learning | This indicator will be included in the implementing partner's final report as the activity is ongoing, the data are available | Final report of the service provider has not been submitted yet | List of participants. Final report of the service provider that will be submitted by the end of September 2019 |

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| | and advocacy events Baseline: 10 Planned Target: 30 | | | |
| | Output 4.2: Greater availability of tools and data to track progress in the economic empowerment of rural women | | | |
| 4.2.1 Implementation and calculation of the women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index | Indicator 4.2.1 WEAI calculated for selected target areas, contributing to programme's baseline Baseline: n/a Planned Target: WEAI calculated for selected target areas, contributing to programme's baseline | The indicator as not been yet achieved | Due to the programme's extension, the WEAI endline has been postponed so as to capture results of activities implemented. Activities will launch in September 2019 | |
| | Output 4.3: An enabling environment is promoted to reflect rural women's priorities in regional policy processes. | | | |
| 4.3.1 Provide support to ongoing process of SDGs localization, development of the Food Security and Nutrition Policy (2018-2020), the Strategy of Development of the Agriculture, the State Programme or Rural Development, the Programme on Social Protection and other sub-sectoral policies and programmes to ensure women and men equally benefit from and participate in the policy dialogue | Indicator 4.3.1 Quant: Number of regional dialogue mechanisms on agriculture, rural development and land that involve rural women's groups Baseline: Planned Target: | This indicator will be included in the implementing partner's final report as the activity is ongoing, the data are available | Final report of the service provider has not been submitted yet | List of participants. Final report of the service provider that will be submitted by the end of September 2019 |
| 4.3.2 Joint Activities: International Women's Day, National Rural Women's Day, International Rural Women's Day, 16 days of activism, Final Programme Conference | Indicator 4.3.2 Number of learning and advocacy events conducted Baseline: Planned Target: | This indicator will be included in the implementing partner's final report, the data are available. International Women's Day, National Rural Women's Day have been conducted as planned. International Rural Women's Day, 16 days of activism are planned for | | List of participants. Final report of the service provider that will be submitted by the end of September 2019 |

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| | | October-November. The Final Programme Conference depends on the pending extension of the programme until June 2020. | | |
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