

**“ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARD THE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF RURAL WOMEN”  
ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT  
REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2019**

<p align="center"><b>Programme Title &amp; Programme Number</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Programme Title: Accelerating Progress Toward the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women in Kyrgyzstan</li> <li>MPTF Office Programme Reference Number: 00092002</li> </ul>	<p align="center"><b>Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results</b></p> <p>Kyrgyzstan (14 villages in 11 districts of Batken, Osh and Jalal-Abad regions)</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><b>Number of direct beneficiaries:</b> 700 (649 women /51 men) <b>Number of indirect beneficiaries:</b> 3, 640</p>
<p align="center"><b>Participating Organization(s)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FAO, IFAD, UNWOMEN, WFP</li> </ul>	<p align="center"><b>Implementing Partners</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministry of Labour and Social Development of the Kyrgyz Republic</li> <li>Ministry of Agriculture, Food Processing and Melioration of the Kyrgyz Republic</li> <li>Local self-government administrations</li> <li>NGO “RAS Chui-Talas” (RAS ChT)</li> <li>NGO “RAS Jalal-Abad” (RAS JA)</li> <li>NGO “Insan Leilek”</li> <li>NGO “Community Development Alliance” (CDA)</li> <li>Southern branch of Republican Health Promotion Centre of the Ministry of Health of the KR</li> <li>Village Health Committees</li> </ul>
<p align="center"><b>Programme/Programme Cost (US\$)</b></p> <p>Total approved budget as per Programme document: US\$2,538,255</p> <p>MPTF Contribution: UN Women: US\$ 963,321 UN FAO: US\$ 688,089 UN WFP: US\$ 684,845 IFAD: US\$ 202,000</p> <p>Agency contribution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UN Women: US\$ 40,000</li> <li>WFP: US\$ 14,500</li> </ul>	<p align="center"><b>Programme Duration</b></p> <p>Overall Duration: 5 years</p>

<p>Government Contribution (if applicable)</p> <p>Other Contributions (donors) (if applicable)</p> <p><b>TOTAL: 2,538,255</b></p>
<p align="center"><b>Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.</b></p> <p>Assessment/Review - if applicable please attach  <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: dd.mm.yyyy</p> <p>Mid-Term Evaluation Report – if applicable please attach  <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: dd.mm.yyyy</p>

<p>Start Date: 01/01/2014</p> <p>End Date: 31/12 /2021, subject to subsequent signing the Addendum</p>
<p align="center"><b>Report Submitted By</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Name: Ulziisuren Jamsran</li> <li>○ Title: UN Women Country Representative</li> <li>○ Participating Organization (Lead): UN Women</li> <li>○ Email address: <a href="mailto:ulziisuren.jamsran@unwomen.org">ulziisuren.jamsran@unwomen.org</a></li> </ul>

## **List of Acronyms**

AO	Aiyl Okmoty
BALI	Business Action Learning Initiative
Chui-Talas RAS	Chui- Talas Rural Advisory Services
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women Empowerment
JP RWEE	Joint Programme Rural Women’s Economic Empowerment
HA	Hectare
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IP	Implementing Partner
MDCA	Mobile Data Collection and Analytics
NDS	National Development Strategy
NGOs	Non-Government Organizations
PF	Public Foundation
PO	Producers’ Organization
RAS JA	Rural Advisory Services Jalal-Abad
SHGs	Self-Help Groups
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
WFP	World Food Programme

## NARRATIVE REPORT

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

To provide a coordinated and coherent response to multidimensional challenges faced by rural women, in 2014 UN Women joined with the World Food Programme (WFP), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) to launch a global Joint Programme on Accelerating Progress towards Economic Empowerment of Rural Women (JP RWEE). In Kyrgyzstan, the programme has been designed as a 5-year initiative, and initially implemented in four regions of the country. In 2019 the JP RWEE was extended to a new geographical and strategic region, Batken province.

Throughout the reporting period 14 new villages from three different provinces were targeted, while the programme continued to support a select number of beneficiaries in all five target regions (Naryn, Chui, Jalal-Abad, Osh, and Batken). The number of direct beneficiaries constituted 700 beneficiaries, including 649 women and 51 men, which were mobilized in self-help groups (SHGs). The new SHGs as well as SHGs of the 2<sup>nd</sup> cohort were provided training on new agro-technology, business planning and financial literacy as well as in value chain development and skills training in income-generation areas.

The multi-agency approach employed in the JP RWEE continues to be effective due to each agency's specialized mandate and on the ground expertise. Within the programme a particular focus is placed on providing economic opportunities for rural women. Thus, the interventions took form of agricultural programmes by small farm households to mini-processing workshops on dairy processing, drying fruits and vegetables, including production of jams and pickles, launched by larger community-led initiatives. As a result, approximately half of self-help groups have started small and medium-sized enterprises, employing women from within their respective groups.

At the community level, SHGs operate savings funds, which primarily serve as a social insurance scheme in cases of family emergencies but can also be used as affordable small loans for SHG members' business needs. Furthermore, rural women in target villages have access to revolving funds and established women's cooperatives, and associations, which also allow them to jointly process and market their products and have a greater negotiating power within value chains. Finally, revolving funds at the community level serve to provide access to affordable financial capital for agricultural and non-agricultural business activities of their members. The revolving group funds ranged from KGS 2,000 to 20,000 (equivalent to US\$29 and US\$287, respectively) which they use for both loans to group members (at 5% or interest free) and non-group members (at 10% interest rate).

SHGs, including municipal workers from 21 municipalities attended the 'School of Leadership' on gender issues, as a result of which they have drafted gender-sensitive activities integrated 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. For 2019, the 20 target municipalities allocated a total of 878,535 KGS (or US\$12,586) from the annual budgets for gender-sensitive activities.

Gender Action and Learning System (GALS), which has been a key approach in addressing gender equality and women's economic empowerment in the programme, has been scaled up in 10 villages in Osh and Djalal-Abad provinces. 10 champions from the target villages were selected and trained in 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 'Rural Advisory Services Jalal-Abad' (RAS JA), UN Women Implementing Partner, were also trained in the catalyst workshops. The total number of beneficiaries of the GALS process is 1,013 direct beneficiaries (839 women and 174 men).

#### **I. Purpose**

In the Kyrgyz Republic the design of the JP RWEE is in alignment with a number of strategic national frameworks such as National Development Strategy (NDS) for 2018-2040, the Law of the KR 'About Local Self-Governance', National Strategy in the area of gender equality until 2020, the State Programme of Irrigation Development of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2017-2026.

JP RWEE’s main objectives contribute to Kyrgyzstan’s United Nations Development Assistance Framework’s (UNDAF) priority I, which embodies issues related to sustainable and inclusive economic growth. The UNDAF directly addresses eleven country-wide priorities of the NDS, whereas the programme’s activities specifically fall under four national priorities: a) agricultural development; b) small and medium enterprise development; c) gender; d) regions development through support and development of income-generating activities run by rural women, communities, SHGs and women’s led organizations.

## II. Results

### Outcome 1: Rural women have improved food and nutrition security

Map 1. Targeted regions of Jalal-Abad, Osh and Batken oblasts (see red circles)



At the end of 2018, 14 new villages in Osh, Jalal-Abad and Batken provinces were selected by JP RWEE partners for the for social mobilization of new beneficiaries for 2019 phase.<sup>1</sup> In general, the programme targeted the vulnerable rural women identified through participatory poverty pyramid methodology, living beyond the national poverty line. In 2019 social mobilization started with identification of potential vulnerable households with the help of social workers and heads of the villages who conduct registration of the poor and vulnerable households in their villages. In particular, some of the criteria for beneficiaries include household income level whose income is below the national poverty line, specific geographical location, productive asset ownership, number of livestock and etc. In addition, the social mobilization aimed at supporting women activists among the identified beneficiaries. As a result, in the beginning of 2019, Rural Advisory Services Jalal-Abad (RAS JA) mobilized the third cohort of beneficiaries, including 649 women and 51 men, who united into 65 self-help groups in the selected villages representing a new cohort in addition to the JP RWEE’s earlier established two cohorts. Self-help groups, which are informal groups, are formed to provide access to group resources and mutual support (for instance joint saving funds, which serve as a social insurance scheme in case of family emergencies, small loans for SHG members’ business needs).

Due to the JP RWEE specific design, beneficiaries benefitted from a number of simultaneous and mutually reinforcing trainings implemented by partner UN agencies in accordance with their mandate. A range of trainings were well attended by the beneficiaries due to the subject’s relevance and applicability of the gained knowledge and skills. For instance, over 95 % of the beneficiaries or 691 (645 women, 46 men) attended the workshops on vegetable production technologies, drip irrigation system.

JP RWEE beneficiaries were provided access to essential resources to ensure their food and nutrition security and trained in controlling local food security reserves and their production. Resources included tangible items such as greenhouses, vegetable seeds, drip irrigation systems, food transfers, various equipment for income-generating activities, and non-tangible items such knowledge provided through capacity development activities on improved production technologies and food transfers.

<sup>1</sup> The 14 villages belong to the districts of Chatkal Ala-Buka, Aksy, Toktogul, Nooken, Ozgon, Aravan, Nookat, Batken, Leilek.

### *Food and nutrition security measures*

Growing healthy, high-quality seedlings is essential for obtaining a high yield of vegetables. The seedling method is applied to crops with a long growing season (tomatoes, cabbage, celery, leeks, squash, pumpkins), as well as for the early harvest of crops such as beets, beans, cucumbers. Obtaining an early harvest allows farmers to increase incomes due to the high price of early products, subject to agrotechnical measures. Considering that vegetables are the most economically profitable crops, 700 mini-plastic tunnel greenhouses were distributed among 700 beneficiaries (650 women and 50 men) for growing early seedlings of vegetables in March 2019.

During the summer period, there is a shortage of irrigation water in all zones of the republic. Vegetables are highly dependent on this moisture, the lack of it not only affects the quality of the grown products but also reduces the yield of crops and sometimes leads to a complete loss of yield. Traditional methods of crop irrigation under climate change do not allow the efficient use of irrigation water. In March-April 2019, 14 demonstration plots with drip irrigation systems were created in 14 target villages to demonstrate and train 689 farmers (644 women and 45 men) on effective methods of irrigation of plants. It enabled 14 women farmers to efficiently use irrigation water at their plots and, most importantly, respond to the need of plants for irrigation in different phases of their development in a timely and efficient manner.

Throughout the season, in addition to a series of trainings, six agronomist consultants provided individual advisory support to 691 beneficiaries (648 women and 43 men) on the problems of plant protection, irrigation and vegetable growing technology.

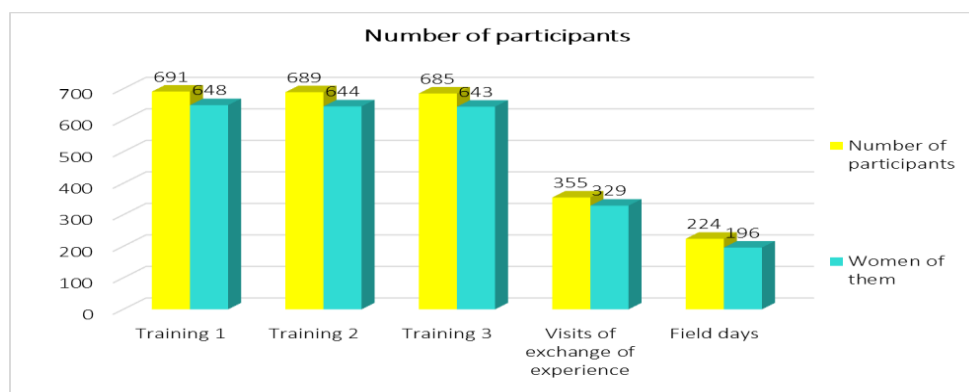
During the reporting period, the local non-government organization (NGO) 'Insan Leilek' was contracted as an implementing partner due to its strong expertise in community mobilization and promotion of rural livelihoods. They have since conducted community needs assessments in the selected pilot sub-districts to identify jointly with women groups their potential income-generating and capacity building priorities. Based on identified needs and opportunities, a series of training sessions on various topics were organized. In total, 34 women SHGs out of 700 mobilized households have benefitted from a four-day practical training session to transfer skills and insights on sewing, launching confectionery businesses, running mini-chicken breeding farms, dairy processing, technology for drying fruits and vegetables, wool processing and handicrafts-making.

In addition to important skills transfers, food transfers were provided to improve the food security and nutrition of selected women SHGs. In June 2019, 700 targeted beneficiaries received 150 kilos of fortified wheat-flour and 15 liters of vegetable oil. Understanding the high vulnerability of participants from low-income households, in total, some 115 metric tons of food was distributed as one more incentive for 700 Programme participants, making their participation in the trainings less of a burden. Thus, they could fully focus on learning and not be concerned about sourcing food or securing employment during that time.

As it was emphasized above, vegetables are one of the most profitable crops among other crops grown in Kyrgyzstan. More than 66% of the population living in rural areas have their own plots of land suitable for growing and receiving high yields of vegetables and other crops. Unfortunately, these sites are used inefficiently. This is largely due to a low level of knowledge of farmers in agronomy, especially among rural women. In order to increase the level of knowledge and instill lifelong practical skills in the production of vegetable products, a series of trainings for the Programme beneficiaries were conducted. The training was conducted in the following areas: a) vegetable production technologies, b) irrigation methods on water-saving technologies and c) vegetable and fruit processing methods in home conditions.

In total 140 theoretical and practical trainings were conducted for up to 700 JP RWEE beneficiaries per each training during the period of April-September 2019 (Diagram 1)

Diagram 1. Number of participants that received theoretical and practical trainings, per training and activities (April-September 2019)



In order to exchange experiences and achievements in growing vegetables, 14 events were organized to between target villages. During the visits the participants, under the guidance of trainers, were able to visit the sites of the beneficiaries and share their acquired knowledge and skills. 355 SHG members and local farmers took part in the exchange visits, including 329 women and 26 men.

An economic analysis conducted by FAO's implementing partner along with monitoring specialist on vegetable production in the demonstration plots, based on monthly data provided by beneficiaries, showed that the knowledge and skills acquired by the beneficiaries during the trainings allowed the beneficiaries to obtain high vegetable yields and, accordingly, increase household incomes.

Table 1. The field monitoring report on amount of received yields and productivity rate

Name of the beneficiary	District	Amount of received yields of vegetables	Amount of plot	Equivalent of received yields in terms of 1 ha to tons	Data of the National Statistic Committee, 2019	Productivity increase (higher than the average yield in the district)
Madimarova Bunisa	Uzgen district, Osh oblast	1,275 kg	0.03 ha	42.5 tons per 1 ha	18.3 tons per 1 ha	2.3 times higher
Kulmatova Gulnaz	Ala-Buka district Jalal-Abad oblast	1,477 kg	0.03 ha	49.2 tons per 1 ha	17.8 tons per 1 ha	2.8 times higher
Nabiev Abdurashit	Batken district, Batken oblast	1,165 kg	0.03 ha	38.8 tons per ha	13.4 tons per 1 ha	2.9 times higher
Sydykov Abdurasul	Batken district, Batken oblast	1,121 kg	0.03 ha	37.4 tons per ha	13.5 tons per 1 ha	2.8 times higher
Tairova Gulzhan	Chatkal district, Jalal-Abad oblast	1,212 kg	0.03 ha	40.4 tons per ha	11.5 tons per ha	3.5 times higher

The results obtained in 2019 at the demo-sites showed that the average vegetable yield obtained by the beneficiaries was higher by 34% compared to the farming (traditional) practice and 99.5% higher than the average crop yield in the Kyrgyz Republic (as according to the National Statistic Committee, 2019)<sup>2</sup>. The average indicator of net profit received by the

<sup>2</sup> For more details in regards to the Final Narrative report/photos/List of participants of PF Chui-Talas RAS: <https://cloud.mail.ru/public/27mU/5bnoKLzdz>

beneficiaries was 21,666 KGS or US\$ 310 from 0.03 ha, while compared with farming practice, profit growth was 130% with an increase in yield by 33%.

## **Outcome 2: Rural women have increased income to secure their livelihoods and create wealth**

The key strategy to achieve Outcome 2 was based on developing and enhancing entrepreneurship skills of the beneficiaries. 65 SHGs (649 women and 51 men) were trained in planning and implementing business-programmes in rural areas. Joining SHGs, members received opportunities to gain theoretical and practical knowledge in relation to their income-generating activities, for instance to participate in exhibitions, fairs (Agro Exhibition ‘Zhibek-Zholy 2019’). In addition, support in the form of equipment, consultations and trainings was provided to launch potential business programmes.

In Kyrgyzstan, is a country where the agricultural sector dominates the economy, and food products such as meat, dairy products, cereals, vegetables, fruits are produced but the by-products or production wastes are usually not used. These by-products can be used by rural residents as raw materials for related non-agricultural activities. Such activities could be related to the production of handicrafts using local natural raw materials, providing additional opportunities for rural employment, income growth and poverty reduction. To provide support to the Programme beneficiaries, JP RWEE in collaboration with Public Fund CACSARC-kg Central Asian Crafts Support Association Resource Center in Kyrgyzstan organized two 5-day training sessions in the Chui oblast in Kamyshanovka village (22 women) and Osh oblast in Sary-Kamysh<sup>3</sup> village (24 participants, including 23 women), overall 46 beneficiaries were trained in December 2019. These learning activities were instrumental for participants to generate additional income and improve the living standards through creation of new designs and introduction of marketing methods. The beneficiaries were taught how to use raw materials for handicraft: wool and skins of small and large cattle, horns, plant parts (corn leaves), natural dyes (onion husks), which can be used in the manufacture of handicraft products. For more effective marketing promotion of products, the beneficiaries learned and created an electronic catalogue illustrating new designs and registered new accounts in social networks (Instagram and LALAFO) where the handicraft products were posted. In addition, five women leaders of the JPRWEE self-help groups from Kamyshanovka, Sary-Kamysh and Kulundu villages participated at the OYMO-Winter handicraft trade festival in January 2020, which provided more expanded opportunities for women and enabled them to get exposed to new business contacts.

In order to increase income security of target communities and promote the livelihoods of rural women, JP RWEE organized short-term trainings on business planning and financial literacy among JP RWEE programme participants. During a series of two-day trainings, 644 rural women acquired skills in financial literacy and business planning. While the main objective of financial literacy training was to enhance the rural women’s skills in planning of the family budget and to integrate the culture of saving for investing in income-generating household activities, the session on business planning enabled participants to prepare a small business plan for entrepreneurship in their areas of interest. Business planning sessions included learning about market assessment, value chain analysis, planning of costs and revenues, branding, marketing and certification of products. In total, 65 business plans were prepared by women SHGs as a product of the learning exercise.

As the prize for the best and sustainable business Programme, JP RWEE announced at the beginning that 15 women SHGs would be awarded with start-up equipment for their business programmes. The panel of JP RWEE participating agencies and a cooperating partner as a secretary, selected 15 business programmes and handed over equipment to 15 women SHGs in the official ceremony held at the office of Osh Oblast administration with participation of deputy Governor, deputy Country Director of WFP, leaders of women SHGs and coordinators from cooperating partner ‘Insan-Leilek’. The following sectors of income-generation among rural women SHGs were supported the JP RWEE including chicken hatchery, sewing, dairy processing, packaging of dried fruits and vegetables, retail trade of frozen products. The equipment from WFP boosted the capacity of rural women in income-generating processing and enabled women SHGs to engage in entrepreneurship activities.

To promote an access of rural women to decent wage employment opportunities, JP RWEE has supported business mentorship for programme participants through cooperating partner ‘Insan-Leilek’. In total, 65 women SHGs (547 households) from three oblasts of Batken, Osh and Jalalabat were consulted by phone and in-person about access to loans, financial literacy, business planning, value chain development, marketing and branding.

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<sup>3</sup> Post in Facebook UN Kyrgyzstan’s page can be obtained via the following link <https://www.facebook.com/510559718992566/posts/2603549819693535/>



Moreover, as part of the JP RWEE promotion of decent wage employment opportunities for rural women, four mini-processing facilities on dairy processing, drying fruits and vegetables, production of jams and pickles were established and launched. During 2019, JP RWEE continued monitoring how communities utilized the equipment and supported all four SHGs running the workshops with a marketing specialist and a food technologist. The first sale of dried fruits and vegetables brought revenue of KGS 182,620 (US\$ 2,600) to the SHGs. More production and sales are expected in the year 2020 with the above facilities still operating on a seasonal basis.

As one more capacity building activity for rural women, a one-day training for Village health committees (VHC) in JP RWEE target locations jointly with the Republic Health Promotion Center under the Ministry of Health was organized. One-day training on nutrition gathered 28 representatives from VHC, who upon return conducted sensitization sessions on nutrition and reproductive health for rural women in 14 villages.

Women's Production Cooperatives have been supported in further developing their members' entrepreneurship skills by JP RWEE's other implementing/cooperating partner 'Community Development Alliance' (which has a status of public foundation). More than 40 members of women's production organizations (Cooperatives 'Kadam' and 'Iskra', Association 'Bar El', Public Foundation 'Taazhy'), that were created within the JP RWEE, completed trainings, which were designed according to the pilot methodology of Business Action Learning for Innovation (BALI), to improve their entrepreneurship skills. As a result of the training 20 promising business-programmes were created (for example, production of lagman noodles, potato chips, plant drying for medical and culinary purposes). Members of the cooperative 'Iskra' started producing paper packages for the local market, and to also pack their own noodles for sale. One of the other successful business-programmes of Cooperative 'Kadam' was production of strawberries in bags placed in greenhouses.

The BALI methodology (Business Action Learning for Innovation) was piloted in Kyrgyzstan amongst the programme's beneficiaries. BALI helped Producers' Organizations (POs) to identify and evaluate innovative business ideas, then select the 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 programmes, develop good marketing strategies and of course kick start these innovative businesses. BALI supported the four POs to implement the following innovative business programmes:

- Cooperative **Kadam** in Jalal-Abad province: drying herbs (for cooking and medicine); drying plums; chicken farms; language courses; nursery gardens; innovative strawberries planting in the greenhouse (in the bag). This helped them to use the space in the greenhouse in a more productive way. They had started selling berries in early spring when local strawberries were not ready yet and thus they were able to make a good profit: they sold 560 kg and earned KGS 45,000 (US\$ 650) in one season.
- Association **Bar El** in Naryn province: produced 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 website
- 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.

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

In December 2018, JP RWEE 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, with members of SHGs for them to work together on promotion of the of GEWE issues at the local level. The established groups, including 80 women and 73 men, 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 representatives of 20 the local municipalities, it was revealed that they had limited knowledge of the rights and responsibilities of local council members. 153 participants who took part in the Leadership Gender Schools received transformational knowledge in relation to the importance of gender-based activities.

This knowledge was later applied by School participants in the process of preparation of local development plans in pilot municipalities.

In early 2019, in the process of mobilisation of women activists in target municipalities, 80 women expressed their desire to more actively participate in the lobbying activities and those related to GEWE at the local level. As such, 19 roundtables were conducted in 19 municipalities to bring together 80 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. From these roundtables, women activists enhanced their knowledge on gender equality, national and international legal framework related to promotion of gender equality, how to cooperate with local self-governments. After training women activists together with the initiative groups, they formulated recommendations for relevant local strategies related to enhancing economic empowerment and lobbying for legislative and policy changes affecting lives of rural women at the local level by responsible party (Rural Advisory Service of Jalal-Abad).

As a result of these discussions, local development plans have been amended and included the gender-responsive activities identified during the round tables. In Shaydyn local self-government the priorities were related to access safe drinking water; local government measures for waste management, including information and awareness building on the importance of sanitary and hygiene as a responsibility of each villager; special local budget allocation for initiatives for increasing community understanding on gender equality and changing harmful and discriminatory norms and practices, including on women economic rights.

Making integration of such gender sensitive actions into local development plans was possible due to the strong commitments from the heads of the chairmen of the local councils. It was further strengthened by dedicated and professional support provided by specialists and members of the initiative groups, which are composed of mentees participants of the Leadership and Gender Schools.

Women activists organized 19 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 a contest among self-help groups from all cohorts was conducted. 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 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 two and three 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.

The Gender Action Learning System (GALS) which was scaled up in a total of 10 villages (7 villages of the 3<sup>rd</sup> cohort and 3 villages of the 2<sup>nd</sup> cohort). One catalyst workshop on Vision and Vision Journey tools was conducted in Osh where 20 people participated (15 women, five men), including 10 new champions (10 women) and two champions from the 1<sup>st</sup> cohort (1 woman, 1 man). In total these 20 champions engaged 1013 community members in GALS actions in 2019. GALS further proved to be instrumental in strengthening actions towards economic empowerment of women participating in the Programme. GALS tools enabled Programme beneficiaries to make conscious and open self-reflection on power dynamics within their families and roles and responsibilities of all family members. As a result of such self-reflection, participants of GALS training noted on better comprehension of an added value of equal relations among family members, and gender equality concept in general. It was important from the perspective of understanding of how the unevenly distributed care work and household responsibilities create barriers for women to meaningfully participate in productive economic activities. It revealed that women spend much more time for fulfilling domestic care work and have much less time for self-education, obtaining new skills, having less leisure time for resting and self-recovery. GALS helped families to work on redistribution of household care responsibilities. In some families the family income was redirected for purchasing electric water heating system and electric washing machines, which tremendously reduced the time spent by women for household work. Such cases were exemplary for other villagers and could play catalytic role in changing in-house relations and roles and responsibilities among members of households, which ultimately leads to reducing the burden of women's care responsibilities and enabling them to have more time for self-realisation. Visioning exercise were also instrumental in the light of strategic thinking and planning of steps for steady development and livelihoods strengthening. Such visions were linked to other economic activities

supported from the JP RWEE, enabling rural women and men – members of self-help groups to form their own strategies for sustainable livelihoods development with clear milestones within the timeframes of their Visions

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

Representatives of SHGs helped to 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.

In the framework of the Leadership and Gender School, 80 women participants from 20 pilot municipalities took part of the studies in two different stages; in January 2019 and May 2019. The participants, who completed the training, formed the ‘initiative groups. In the first phase participants were trained in the theory of gender and gender-sensitive local budget design. During the training participants analyzed strategic economic plans of their own municipalities in terms of gender-sensitive activities and developed new activities. As a result of the training, various activities were successfully launched. Participants then initiated advocacy activities such as delivering presentations about their developed plans at public hearings, receiving feedback from the local population. Deputies of the local councils and specialists of the village municipalities organized a round table. As a result, the 20 municipalities included gender-sensitive activities in their strategic plans. For 2019, the 20 target municipalities allocated a total of 878,535 KGS (approximately US\$ 12,500) from the annual budgets for gender-sensitive activities

During the reporting period, JP RWEE has participated in many public awareness raising and advocacy activities for enabling environment to promoted rural women’s priorities in regional and global policy processes including employment, decent wage, equal rights for house, land and property (HLP). Events included celebration of the International Women Day, International Day of Rural Woman, The World Food Day, local and regional conferences and many other meetings with Government counterparts and local authorities. During the national conference ‘Women Entrepreneurs in the KR: A new impulse for sustainable development’ rural women groups participating in the JP RWEE attended and met with relevant government stakeholders from the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Labour and Social Development, and Parliament. They discussed legislative changes required for enabling and development of women’s entrepreneurship in the country.

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

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 from the first quarter of 2018. Since this period two Programme National Coordinators left the programme, and for about five months the position was vacant. Such a disruption led to the lack of proper quality assurance of programme implementation and coordination. The newly hired programme coordinator joined the team at the end of April 2019 and left in October 2019 without an advance notification. Originally, when the programme was implemented from 2014 to 2017 there were three personnel positions: National Programme Coordinator (SC8), Fieldwork Coordinator (SC7) and Programme Assistant (SC5, full-time). In 2019 the position of Programme Coordinator was field in only for seven months, and Programme Assistant worked on part-time basis since June 2019, which affected the implementation and coordination of the programme.

To mitigate those management constraints the team conducted a special coordination meeting in December 2019 that resulted in several important decisions: 1) to establish an Inter-agency committee represented by Heads of Agencies to meet at quarterly basis; 2) to establish Technical Committee represented by focal points from each agency to meet on monthly basis; 3) to hire a Community Development Specialist – as the highly essential position to ensure effective coordination and synergies of fieldwork activities. UN Women developed a management arrangement plan, which was based on introducing UN Women’s Country office Deputy as leader of the JP RWEE in the Kyrgyz Republic. This has been implemented since early 2020.

There were additional challenges with turnover in the staff of 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. Once the national coordinator and Programme Assistant joined the programme, the IP started to receive the necessary guidance. In addition, with future partners, an improved and enhanced Programme/programme implementation framework (New Partner Agreement and Partner Grant Agreement Management System enforced as of 2020), will be applied.

There were challenges related to the launches of the four processing workshops 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.

After a one-year gap in the implementation of the JP RWEE, a large number 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. For 2020, it was decided by the JP RWEE team to focus on strengthening the sustainability of the existing self-help groups. The objective is to encourage the remaining SHGs of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> cohort to join the Producer Organizations, so that they can get access to the benefits guaranteed by the state to cooperatives and other possible support in the future, including channelling communication, access to resources, etc.

- **Qualitative assessment:**

During the reporting period the coordination among the four participating UN agencies was uneven due to turnover in the coordinating personnel and lack of a programme coordinator for the first four months of the year. Coordination meetings, regular communication, joint preparation of events, monitoring visits and activities resumed in April 2019 after the programme coordinator joined the JP RWEE. Despite of management constraints, the team was mindful about the need to ensure sustainability of programme results, including through special actions on strengthening sustainability of SHGs established throughout the Programme by integrating SHGs into the membership of Producers Organisations and continue activities as members of POs.

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) launched a training centre for cooperatives under the Kyrgyz National Agrarian University in the fall of 2019, which is targeting the management of agricultural cooperatives, employees of local self-governments and representatives of relevant ministries and agencies. The training courses are being 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 are 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 2019 while conducting nutrition awareness activities among the Programme beneficiaries, and also enhancing the knowledge of the Village Health Committee members.

A joint monitoring visit in 2019 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 or US\$ 0.71 cents and US\$

1.4) for their own needs, often on a rotation basis. The self-help groups account for 10-12 members, from 20 to 75 years old, and mostly represented by rural women. The beneficiaries have become proactive and now make promising plans for future. Some beneficiaries made joint income generating plans, such as buying land and work it collectively within SHGs, as they realized that their cooperation would yield higher incomes in the future. In addition, their social life became more diverse as 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 livelihoods through increased food security and better nutrition of their families and increase in their household income selling their products at local markets.

CDA, which was Programme's former IP, has closely worked with RAS JA throughout all stages of GALS; upscaling it in 10 villages in the south. RAS JA was 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.

### **Additional information on visibility**

The achievements of the JPRWEE were presented at two international events. First one was the presentation of the success stories of benefitting from a Joint UN Programme, 'Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women' (JPRWEE) at the Commission on the Status of Women on 14 March 2019 in New York<sup>4</sup>. The presentation was conducted Dinara Rakhmanova, Assistant Representative of FAO in the Kyrgyz Republic. The meeting was attended by the donor community, including one of the JP RWEE Donors (representative of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs). The second event was held in Almaty (Kazakhstan) where the developments and cases of the JP RWEE in Kyrgyzstan were presented by Gender and Rural Women's Empowerment Expert (FAO national consultant) at the UN Women Gender SDG regional conference in November 2019. For the celebration of the International Rural Women's day JP RWEE in collaboration with 'The Current Time' Media, made a video reportage that highlighted gender equality and women's empowerment issues. The story of one of the JPRWEE beneficiaries was recorded and posted at The Current Time's Facebook page<sup>5</sup>.

During August 2019, three field days were held at three demonstration plots:

- Chon-Bagysh village of the Nooken rayon (Zhalal-Abad oblast), where 78 farmers including 71 women participated at the event.
- Ozgorush village of Uzgen rayon (Osh oblast). 76 farmers including 66 women participated in the field day.
- Boz-Adyr village of Batken oblast. 70 farmers including 59 women participated in the field day.

Different groups of stakeholders were represented at the events: including representatives from the JP RWEE, the Rural Advisory Services RAS, the Ministry of Social Development and Labor, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food processing and Melioration, as well as local residents and Representatives of Rayon State administration, local self-government bodies, beneficiaries and interested farmers. A total of 224 people took part in the field days. In these events, the beneficiaries demonstrated their acquired knowledge and practical skills they obtained during the training. They demonstrated the achieved results, showed the peculiarities of growing vegetables and what methods are used to effectively use irrigation water to obtain high yields. The beneficiaries showed the production of home-made vegetables from their crops.

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<sup>4</sup> More detailed information can be found via these links: <http://www.fao.org/new-york/news/detail/en/c/1187595/> and <https://insight.wfp.org/rural-womens-empowerment-how-a-joint-un-initiative-is-enabling-women-to-be-masters-of-their-own-32d75172c8e1?gi=854261f0d59d>

<sup>5</sup> The video is available here <https://www.facebook.com/UN.Kyrgyzstan/videos/447045835937452/>

## ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:

	<u>Achieved</u> Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
<b>Outcome 1 Improved food and nutrition security</b>			
<p><b>Indicator 1.1:</b> Quant: Increase of agricultural production of women farmers</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.2:</b> Evidence of improvement of rural women dietary diversity and consumption patterns -Average dietary diversity score  Baseline: 4.5 Planned Target: &gt; 6.1</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.3:</b> Proportion of households with “poor” or “borderline” food consumption score  Baseline: 19% Planned Target: 5% with poor/borderline FCS (Decrease in proportion by 80%)</p>	<p>On average by 2.5 times higher</p> <p>6.22 dietary diversity score has been reached in 2019</p> <p>2 % of total households (14 households) with poor/borderline FCS</p> <p>According to the National Statistics Committee, families, who live on KGS 1,455 (or US\$ 20) per month, represent poor/borderline FCS.</p>	<p>More frequent consumption of vegetables, fruits and meat products was the main determinant of the increased FCS.</p> <p>Final report of the service provider</p>	<p>Programme monitoring before and after</p>
<b>Output 1.1 Rural women have increased access to and control over resources, assets and services critical for their food and nutrition security</b>			
<p>Indicator 1.1.1 Number of rural women utilizing improved production techniques  Baseline: 0 beneficiaries Planned Target: 700 beneficiaries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 650 women and 50 men were provided with mini-plastic tunnel greenhouses</li> <li>- 14 sets of drip irrigation equipment installed for demonstrating of advanced technologies</li> <li>- Trainings on water saving technologies carried out (689 beneficiaries, including 644 women and 45 men)</li> </ul>	<p>Final report of the service provider</p>	<p>Final report of the service provider (IP)</p>
<p>Indicator 1.1.2 Number of rural women who had an increase of the yield of vegetables</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Out of 700 beneficiaries who</li> </ul>	<p>Final report of the service provider</p>	<p>Final report of the service provider</p>

<p>Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 700</p>	<p>received vegetables seeds 696 beneficiaries increased their yield of vegetables (was higher by 34% compared to the farming (traditional) practice and 99.5% higher than the average crop yield in the Kyrgyz Republic)</p>		
<p>Output 1.2 Rural women have greater capacity to enhance and control local food security reserves and their production</p>			
<p>Indicator 1.2.1 Number of rural women trained on vegetable and fruit processing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 700 beneficiaries were provided with seeds:</li> <li>- 1 session – on theoretical part of the training on vegetable production technologies was conducted for 700 beneficiaries (including 668 women and 32 men</li> <li>- 685 beneficiaries trained on vegetable and fruit processing (including 643 women)</li> </ul>	<p>Final report of the service provider</p>	<p>Transfer acts between FAO and beneficiaries (FAO). Financial reports. Final report of the service provider</p>
<p><b>Outcome 2 Rural women have increased income to secure their livelihoods.</b></p>			
<p><b>Indicator 2.1:</b> 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  <b>Baseline:</b> TBD <b>Planned Target:</b> TBD</p>		<p>Women’s cooperatives will be undergoing organization and financial assessment in the upcoming month. The indicator is still under examination. In post-Programme monitoring, in 2019, 73% of households have reported that Programme activities have enabled their households to increase agriculture production, productivity and diversity and 65% of households have reported that Programme activities have enabled them to increase incomes from agriculture.</p>	
<p>Output 2.1 Rural women have enhanced entrepreneurship skills and value chains to access markets for their products</p>			

<p>Indicator 2.1.1 number of beneficiaries that have strengthened their entrepreneurial/ business management skills</p> <p>Baseline: Planned Target: 700 (670 women, 30 men)</p>	<p>700 beneficiaries (644 women, 56 men) have been trained on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- trainings on farm management and business have been conducted</li> <li>- trainings on business planning and financial literacy have been conducted</li> <li>- Guidance and mentorship in small business identification and development have been carried out regularly</li> </ul>	<p>Final report of the service provider</p>	<p>WFP's MDCA database in List of participants. Final report of the service provider</p>
<p>Output 2.2 Rural women have increased access to decent wage employment opportunities</p>			
<p>Indicator 2.2.1 number of beneficiaries that have strengthened their entrepreneurial / business management skills</p> <p>Baseline: Planned Target: 700 (670 women, 30 men)</p>	<p>700 beneficiaries (644 women, 56 men) have been trained on:</p> <p>Trainings on various income generating areas (baking, sewing, poultry farming) have been conducted</p>	<p>Final report of the service provider</p>	<p>WFP's MDCA database in List of participants. Final report of the service provider</p>
<p><b>Outcome 3: Rural women have enhanced leadership and participation in their communities and in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programmes.</b></p>			
<p><b>Indicator 3.1:</b> Number of rural women running for representatives in rural councils</p> <p>Baseline: TBD based on new elections (to be held in April 2020 )</p>			
<p>Output 3.1 Rural women, including young women have enhanced confidence and leadership skills to participate in local governance</p>			
<p>Indicator 3.1.1 Number of rural women leaders participating in the process of local planning and budgeting</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 80</p>	<p>21 initiative groups (80 rural women), including at least 1 woman activist, have been established in partner municipalities. These initiative groups developed gender-responsive local development plans and corresponding budgets.</p>	<p>Final report of the service provider</p>	<p>List of participants. Final report of the service provider</p>



Indicator 3.1.2 Number of local development plans/budgets developed based on participatory process  Baseline: 0 Target: 20	20 local governments integrated gender priorities in their local plans		
Indicator 3.1.3. Number of community initiatives addressing specific needs of rural women  Baseline: 0 Target:	Nine municipalities were selected for a small funding to conduct the activities in Jalal-Abad, Osh and Batken provinces	Final report of the service provider	List of participants. Final report of the service provider
Output 3.2: Rural women have greater organizational capacities to form, sustain and participate into POs, cooperatives and unions			
Indicator 3.2.1 Number of rural women mobilized in self-help groups for joint economic activities  Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 649 rural women, 51 men	649 rural women and 51 men mobilized into 65 SHGs		Service provider's report/database. Photographs. Monitoring visit.
Output 3.3: Rural women, including young women, have increased capacity to engage in and influence relevant policy forums at national and regional levels			
Indicator 3.3.1 Number of rural women participating in policy lobbying activities at local and central levels  Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 80	80 rural women participating in policy lobbying activities at local and central levels	Final report of the service provider	List of participants. Final report of the service provider
Output 3.4: Rural women, including young women have enhanced awareness on their rights in a more supportive community/local environment.			
Indicator 3.4.1 number of rural women who have increased knowledge of their rights  Baseline: Planned Target:670 rural women	651 rural women have increased knowledge of their rights	Final report of the service provider	List of participants. Final report of the service provider
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	List of participants. Final report of the service provider
<b>Outcome 4: A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women</b>			

<b>Indicator 4.1:</b> Evidence that policies and strategies include gender equality objectives and address the barriers to women's economic advancement	-		
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.			
Indicator 4.1.1: Number of policy makers participated in the learning and advocacy events  Baseline: 10 Planned Target: 30	30 policymakers participated in the learning and advocacy events	Final report of the service provider	List of participants. Final report of the service provider
Output 4.2: Greater availability of tools and data to track progress in the economic empowerment of rural women			
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 has not been yet achieved	Due to the programme's extension, the WEAI endline has been postponed so as to capture results of activities implemented.	
Output 4.3: An enabling environment is promoted to reflect rural women's priorities in regional policy processes.			
Indicator 4.3.1: Number of regional dialogue mechanisms on agriculture, rural development and land that involve rural women's groups  Baseline: Planned Target:	Two regional dialogue mechanisms launched	Final report of the service provider	List of participants. Final report of the service provider
Indicator 4.3.2 Number of learning and advocacy events conducted Baseline: Planned Target:5	Four learning and advocacy events conducted  Three joint events were conducted International Women's Day, National Rural Women's Day 16 days of activism have been conducted as planned, . The Final Programme Conference hasn't been conducted as the programme has been extended until the end of		List of participants. Final report of the service provider

	December 2020.		
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### iii) A Specific Story

#### *Story 1. Community-based processing and production mini-workshop on dairy products in Emgek-Talaa (Naryn region)*



Sarybaeva Baktygul (left), women group leader, and Myrzakanova Elzada (right), worker at workshop, packaging cheese in the dairy processing workshop in Emgek-Talaa village in the Naryn region)

In the village of Emgek-Talaa (Naryn region), where the level of extreme poverty is the highest in the country, a mini-processing and production mini-workshop of dairy products was launched by an established women's SHG with the support from the local authorities and JP RWEE. More than 10,000 livestock are herded here, which provides around 30,000 tons of milk. The SHG successfully initiated a business idea based on the community's interest in producing dairy products (for example, sour cream, soft sorts of cheese, butter, etc.) for local needs, visiting tourists, residents from the nearby city, including three local schools and three kindergartens.

The local authorities of Emgek Talaa provided premises (former post office building) on free-of-charge basis. The Local fund provided financial support to repair the building's interior. Within JP RWEE in addition to equipment, furniture and specialized cloth for workers, technical support, namely consultations by certified technologists and a business consultant, was provided. This created jobs for the local population, particularly from vulnerable social groups, who also underwent Hazard Analytics & Critical Control Points (HACCP) training.

The mini-processing workshop started providing services of milk processing and collecting the local milk to produce various dairy products, including cheese, cottage cheese, yogurt, which amounts to 50-70 kg a month.

#### *Story 2.*

Dzhurabaeva Kuzduzhan, is 59 years old, a mother of 6 children. A leader of a group "Birimdik", Ozgorush village, Don Bulak Ayil Okmotu, Uzgen district, Osh province.



K. Dzhurabaeva, a leader of the group “Birimdik”

“Recently, at the age of 59, I began to have health problems, namely, I had a high blood pressure, haemoglobin level was low. Of course, I started going to doctors, taking various prescribed medications, a lot of antibiotics, which later led me to a stomachache”.

In May 2019, under activities of the SHG, the beneficiary attended a seminar on income-generating activities. Since then, the SHG picked a business type to breed laying hens and her group additionally learned about healthy and proper nutrition habits during the training sessions. A trainer asked to analyse their daily diet, where the participants said that they mainly cooked pilaf, fried pasta and potatoes. Their children were accustomed to this diet and ate very little veggies and fruits. Simply, there is no such culture as to prepare fresh salads and buy and eat fruits. As according to the beneficiary, she realized that since they constantly eat fried foods with a large amount of fat, she constantly gets health problems, such as high blood pressure along with anaemia.



Income-generating training in Don-Bulak aiyl okmoty

After the training, the beneficiary’s family together with the SHG began to breed laying hens; their aim was to sell eggs. A potential sale of eggs will help the family to buy more varieties of food. As a family, the beneficiary and her family calculated, if they are saving in the near future, they will be able to open a mini chicken farm at home, which would be an additional source of income to the family. According to the beneficiary: “I am sure that many families, having completed these trainings, will be able to reach financial stability and will think about a healthy diversified diet for their children”.

**III. Other Assessments or Evaluations (if applicable)**

**IV. Resources**

The Programme didn't mobilize any additional resources or interventions from other partners over the reporting period. The total amount approved for 2019 is US\$ 800,000, which were spent in accordance with the workplan.