

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

<p align="center">Programme Title & Project Number</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme Title: Accelerating Progress Towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women in Guatemala MPTF Office Project Reference Number: 00092001 	<p align="center">Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results</p> <p>Municipalities of Panzos, San Miguel Tucuru, Santa Catalina La Tinta, in the Department of Alta Verapaz, in Guatemala</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>Direct beneficiaries: 5,612 (4,529 women, 1083 men) Indirect beneficiaries: 24,811 (22,645 women and 2,166 men)</p>
<p align="center">Participating Organization(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FAO, IFAD, UNWOMEN, WFP 	<p align="center">Implementing Partners</p> <p>Association for Integral Development (ADRI) Sustainable Rural Development Program for the Northern Region (PRODENORTE)</p>
<p align="center">Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</p> <p>Total approved budget as per project document: MPTF Contribution, Norway:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> by Agency US\$ 245,481 FAO US\$ 49,776 WFP US\$145,929 UNWOMEN US\$49,776 <p>MPTF Contribution, Sweden:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> by Agency FAO US\$ 770,688 IFAD US\$ 125,500 WFP US\$ 1,304,292 UNWOMEN US\$ 1,087,774 <p>Total approved budget: US\$ 3,288,254</p>	<p align="center">Programme Duration</p> <p>Overall Duration 5 YEARS</p> <p>Start Date: 15 10 2012</p> <p>Extension date: 31 December 2021, subject to subsequent signing the Addendum</p>
<p align="center">Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.</p> <p>Assessment/Review - if applicable <i>please attach</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: dd.mm.yyyy</p> <p>Mid-Term Evaluation Report – if applicable <i>please attach</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: dd.mm.yyyy</p>	<p align="center">Report Submitted By</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name: Laura Melo Title: Representative Participating Organization (Lead): WFP Email address: laura.melo@wfp.org

List of Acronyms

ADRI	Integral Development Association
ADP	Association of friends of development
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
CENTRARSE	Centre for Action on Corporate Social Responsibility
COCODE	Community Development Council
COCOSAN	Community Committee Council for Food and Nutrition Security
CODE	Community Development Councils
COFETARN	Commission of economic promotion, tourism, environment and natural resources
COMUDE	Municipal Development Council
COMUSAN	Municipal Council for Food and Nutrition Security
CONADUR	National Council for Urban and Rural Development
CONALFA	National Literacy Committee
CONAP	National Commission of Protected Areas
CONRED	National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction.
COPREDEH	Presidential Commission for Human Rights
DEMI	Office for the Defense of Indigenous Women
DIGEEX	Directorate General of Out-of-School Education
DMM	Municipal Directorate for Women
ENEI	National Survey of Employment and Income
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FONTIERRA	Land Fund
GALS	Gender Learning and Action System
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
INAB	National Forestry Institute
INE	National Statistics Institute
INTECAP	Technical Training Institute
JP RWEE	Joint Programme “Rural Women Economic Empowerment”
MAGA	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food
MIDES	Ministry for Social Development
MINEDUC	Ministry of Education
MINECO	Ministry of Economy
MINFIN	Ministry of Finance
MINTRAB	Ministry of Labor
MPTF	Multi-Partner Trust Fund
MSPAS	Ministry for Public Health and Social Assistance.
OMM	Municipal Women Department
OPF	Parents' organizations
PAFFEC	Family Farming Programme for Peasant Economy Strengthening
PLANOVI	National Plan for Non-Violence against Women

PNDRI	Integrated Rural Development Policy
PNPDIM	National Policy for the Advancement and Integral Development of Women
PEO	Equal Opportunity Plan
PRECODE	Preparation to Exercise Delegated Competence
PRODENORTE	Sustainable Rural Development Programme for the Northern Region
RIC	Registry of Cadastral Information
RIMS	Risk and Impacts Management
SAA	Secretary of Agrarian Affairs
SCEP	Coordination Secretary of the Presidency
SEGEPLAN	Secretariat of Programming and Planning of the Presidency
SEPREM	Presidential Secretariat for Women
SESAN	Secretariat of Food and Nutrition Security
SIECA	Central American Secretariat for Economic Integration
UGMAGA	MAGA Gender Unit
UN Women	UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women.
WEAI	Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index
WFP	World Food Programme

NARRATIVE REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The progress achieved from January to December 2019 by the 'Joint Program for Accelerating Progress Towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women' in Guatemala (JP RWEE), has been focused on the four strategic programme outcomes; (i) guaranteeing food and nutritional security; (ii) increasing income to ensure livelihoods; (iii) empowering rural women; and (iv) supporting the implementation of gender-sensitive policies.

In accordance with the Operational Plan of the Program, different activities were developed with target-specific groups and local organizations jointly supported by the executing/implementing agencies in the three targeted municipalities (San Miguel Tucurú, Santa Catalina La Tinta and Panzós) of the department of Alta Verapaz in the Polochic Valley. To date, the total number of people supported by the JP RWEE is 5,612 (4,529 women and 1,083 men) through in 69 producer organisations and women's groups.

The main achievements of 2019 include the improved productivity in the cultivation of basic grains and backyard gardens; the transfer of knowledge on proper handling of post-harvest and time-saving technologies; the development of skills to improve nutrition using local foods; the consolidation of agricultural and non-agricultural enterprises; the training processes and technical assistance for increased income and economic autonomy; the bolstering of organizational and management skills; the increase in the participation of rural women in decision-making and leadership spaces at the local level with the implementation of methodologies with a gender perspective; the support provided to government agencies through technical assistance and training of public officials for effective implementation of public policy and institutional mechanisms sensitive to gender equality.

Key results for the reporting period include;

- 333 women were supported in improving food and nutritional security through the availability and access to food items of animal and vegetable origin and its incorporation into the family diet, alongside the strengthening of associations in the production and marketing of products.
- The management of economic resources by 69 women producer organizations and farm and backyard producers' groups in the Polochic Valley generated gross income from sales totalling US\$ 128,921 through the implementation of agricultural and non-agricultural enterprises and US\$ 106,062 through the administration of 46 savings and credit groups. The participation of 45 rural women in training through the citizen camp "political training and empowerment of women"⁴⁰ coordinators of the Gender Units of government institutions that make up the Technical Board for Rural Development with a were trained in the use of the Gender Thematic Classifier¹ and results-based budget management.

Moreover, the JP RWEE has contributed to a more positive perspective towards rural women, their organizations and the population linked to the work that they do. This was concretely achieved through advocacy and capacity building activities focused on women's rights, gender inequality awareness, improved food security, and the important push of women's participation in decision-making spaces and political advocacy.

In order to implement all the processes, technical support, monitoring and evaluation were provided jointly by FAO, IFAD, UN Women and WFP. This was coupled with the production and dissemination of knowledge management documents as a continuous learning tool strengthened the women.

¹ Budgetary structure that government institutions, in compliance with Article 36 of Decree No. 54-2010, must use to identify institutional actions and budgetary allocations that respond to public policies that promote gender equity, for the benefit of women and girls.

I. Results

Outcome 1: Rural women have improved food and nutritional security.

During the reporting period, 333 rural women received technical assistance in 10 agroecological farming practices including no open burning, stubble management, grains planted per hole, plant spacing, incorporation of green manure, harvest and postharvest handling, improved seeds, soil conservation through living fences and contour ploughing, organic fertilizers, and crop diversification. Technical assistance was also provided to 10 backyard garden practices such as home gardens, medicinal gardens, native plant gardens, pruning of fruit trees, establishment of fruit trees, improvement of livestock facilities, organic fertilizers, sewage channelling, use of recycled resources for gardens, use of organic fungicides and pesticides. As a result, through their implementation, local farm and backyard garden food systems have been enhanced, and the knowledge acquired has been applied to the production of healthier foods for household consumption, including native herbs such as blackberry, chipilín² and amaranth, and other vegetables such as tomato, chard, chili pepper, celery and cabbage.

In addition, 822 (594 women and 228 men) received training on gender-sensitive food security and nutrition, and 23 workshops were held for parents' organizations (OPF) in which 77 men and 531 women participated, learning about topics such as the use of local food, hygiene and food safety in accordance with the National School Feeding Law.

Through the promotion of the use of native species for increased nutrition, native plants have been incorporated into household diets, contributing to the improvement of family members nutritional status due to the high content of iron, protein, calcium, zinc and vitamin A contained in these species. In continuation of its sensitisation work, the JP RWEE in coordination with the Municipalities of Panzós, La Tinta and Tucurú, organized a cooking competition focused on the use of native ingredients, engaging 243 participants (72 men and 171 women). As a result of this process, and in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA), a “Compendium of Native Plants and Recipes” document was prepared for distribution to local rural communities. In addition, MAGA has begun the process of identifying native medicinal plants in order to complete the process and produce a comprehensive compendium that will encourage extension work to improve food and nutritional security at the departmental level.

333 rural women organised through 14 groups were supported with agricultural inputs, mainly for the production of tilapia meat, chicken meat, vegetables, eggs, pork and manioc. These inputs included laying hen farms, broiler farms, tilapia farms, pig farms, and initial feed for the animals and a water purification plant. Numerous women reported that the support of the inputs has strengthened their entrepreneurship and their organizational capacity, which helped them to improve the generation of family income. Likewise, rural women belonging to 16 producer organizations received time-saving technology items, including 107 wood-saving stoves and 30 rainwater collection tanks.

During 2019, training provided to rural women in post-harvest techniques have resulted in a reduction of 21.7% of post-harvest losses. In addition, they were able to increase their stocks of maize and beans, helping to offset spending on basic grains in markets and thus increasing household cash savings. Due to this, they had the opportunity to buy other foods to which they previously had no access, such as milk and vegetables.

Outcome 2: Rural women increase their incomes to secure their livelihoods.

During 2019, 69 producer organizations were formed by women alongside farm and backyard producers' groups in the Polochic Valley that generated a total gross sales revenue of US\$ 128,921 through their ventures and surplus sales. The main production and marketing activities supported in the JP RWEE producer organizations were the production of fresh eggs, chicken meat, pork, and tilapia meat; as well as value added products such as honey, shampoo, traditional Guatemalan cakes and textiles. A total of 1,720 people benefited from the business activities of the JP RWEE; being 1,410 rural women directly involved in the income generating activities and 310 men collaborating in awareness-raising activities and contributing directly to women's participation.

² The chipilín, is a perennial legume, native to Mexico and Central America

For achieving an increased market exposure, the sales' mobilization was managed through the boards of directors of each of the producer's organizations; having as main sales channels: local stores for community sales, Li Qatenamit markets³ in the Teleman village (Panzos Municipality) and in municipal markets in Tucuru, La Tinta and Panzos. In addition, coordination with the 'Getzemani' community radio stations was carried out to promote sales made by women, this action allowed the population to know the products that women have for sale.

In addition, the 46 savings and credit groups from the municipalities of La Tinta, Panzos and Tucuru, actively continued to participate in the process of the community savings and loan methodology, generating a total of US\$ 106,062 in savings during 2019. The credits acquired by the rural women have been mainly used to increase the working capital for their enterprises and for the purchase of production inputs such as corn fertilizer at harvest time, poultry (broilers) and pigs. Additionally, savings have been used by the rural women to cover some basic needs and a small percentage to support food purchases for their households.

With the aim of bolstering rural women's organizational capacities, a total of 1,410 rural women organized in 33 groups received training and technical assistance on organizational strengthening, agricultural and livestock production, food processing, nutrition, community savings and marketing. Additionally, 333 rural women have received training in entrepreneurial skills, providing them with tools to create entrepreneurships in an associative way.

Two producers organizations of 49 rural women from the communities of Peniel and Pajja, located in the municipality of Tucurú, have developed the basis of an inclusive business model for cassava, sweet potato and plantain flour, in which they have managed to improve the quality of their product and increase their sales by improving their production infrastructure and basic equipment (including mill, stainless steel tables and utensils). Moreover, they have generated organizational capacity and business skills, while creating their own brand of products to position them in the local markets.

In order to foster the value chain approach, the JP RWEE has continued to promote and strengthen the production of crops that contribute to diversification and increase income, such as fortified maize and beans, pineapple, sweet potato for flour, bananas, hibiscus and mania, taking advantage of the transfer of good management practices and technology to increase results. This was complemented through the ongoing provision of technical assistance to improve production cost records, organizational strengthening and product profitability analysis. Additionally, the honey value chain was promoted and strengthened with technical assistance and inputs to improve the production and marketing of honey, benefiting 635 people (492 women and 43 men).

In addition, 39 women producer organizations received productive infrastructure such as: waist looms, yarn skeins, yarn boxes, wooden benches, folding tables and crossbreeding needles. For soap making, they were provided with inputs such as: plastic buckets, glasses, special gloves, nets, rubber boots, gowns, plastic folding tables, soap-making moulds, plastic boxes, displays, five plastic buckets, litres of fragrances. All of these inputs generate added value for the products, while they also received support for market promotion activities including the improvement of the products image design, packaging, labelling, and organization's visibility.

Support continued to be provided for the administration of service enterprises for the processing of food (corn grains into corn flour for making tortillas) with nixtamal and corn husking mills through rotating mechanical huskers, benefitting 377 women and 166 men.

The 'Water Purification Plant' project was implemented with the support of the Healing Water International Foundation and the Association for Integral Rural Development (ADRI), with the objectives of contributing to improving access to safe water, improving the health conditions of the population through the reduction of diarrheal diseases, as well as increasing economic income and the generation of local employment of 221 people (150 women and 71 men).

³ This is the name in indigenous Q'eqchi language given to traditional community markets.

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

Through 2019, the JP RWEE has continued to support the participation of rural women in public decision-making spaces; achieving the following;

- Nine rural women who participated on the JP RWEE leadership trainings, now hold positions within Development Councils; seven in Community Development Council (COCODES) and two in Municipal Development Councils (COMUDES).
- 102 women form part of the Boards of Directors of their producer organizations and represent them in the various activities at the community and municipal levels; being recognized by the relevant municipalities.
- 16 producer organizations have functional women's boards of directors, have internal controls for their operation (minutes books, savings and loan controls, sales controls, functions and responsibilities of the organization's board of directors).
- A systematization of the achievements, difficulties, good practices and lessons learned by representatives of women's organizations in the Development Council system was carried out, including projects submitted for public investment with Development Council funds.

In addition, a workshop was given to 38 women representatives to the Departmental Council of Development (CODEDE) for their advocacy in the national council of development (the alternate representative of the organizations at the national level is from Alta Verapaz Aura Marina Xum).

Regarding the JP RWEE commitment to increase access to education for rural women, during the 2019 school year, and in coordination with the National Literacy Committee (CONALFA), 256 rural women linked to savings and credit groups completed the literacy process, learning how to read and write.

45 women from the three municipalities of La Tinta, Panzos and Tucuru, (15 women from WFP, 15 from FAO and 15 from UN Women) strengthened their knowledge and leadership skills on the topics of political training and women's empowerment. They actively participated in the training process through the Citizen's Camp called "Political Training and Empowerment of Women" by carrying out the following activities:

- Becoming familiar with the route of project management towards the system of Development Councils; the type of projects to be presented and the requirements that need to be met.
- Reflecting on the importance of participating in decision-making spaces. In this process, participating women recognized that progress has already been made as now women integrated into the structures of the COCODE.
- Carrying out an analysis and reflection on the experiences they have had in the system of Development Councils.

In addition, the JP RWEE continued to promote awareness on women's rights, and 260 rural women received training on their rights and became familiar with the mechanisms for participation in Development Councils and Municipal Governments to promote their participation in decision-making spaces. Likewise, a workshop oriented to 22 Departmental Directorates of Women's Development was organized focusing on increasing the knowledge of their mandate and Women's Human Rights.

The Gender Learning and Action System (GALS) methodology was implemented, promoting the definition of individual and collective visions of progress and addressing gender equality as a key element in the analysis and planning of routes and actions to advance towards achievements at the personal, family and community levels. GALS, as a drawing-based methodology, was adjusted to the literacy limitations of the population served by the JP RWEE. During this period i) the GALS manuals were translated into Spanish, ii) a process of training, advice and continuous accompaniment by IFAD was carried out for the team of promoters and field technicians of the Programme, iii) this team was in charge of applying the four basic GALS tools in 14 groups and a total of 168 people (148 women and 20 men) directly in the three municipalities. Some of these people replicated what they had learned with members of their family or community, iv) as a follow-up to the application of the methodology, four workshops were held with the participation of 12 people from the field team, the JP RWEE's monitoring and evaluation officer and a total of 37 women from the communities. These workshops served for reflection and analysis of the experience in order to reinforce learning, identify lessons learned for improvement in the application of the methodology and prepare a preliminary proposal for

the continuation of the work during the year 2020. In addition, 26 women, once their knowledge and capacities had been strengthened, committed to carry out two replications of GALs in their families and/or communities.

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

During 2019, the JP RWEE has continued to provide support to a wide array of public institutions in Guatemala, in order to promote gender mainstreaming and equality in their different policies, programmes, and processes.

The memorandum of understanding with the Secretariat for Executive Coordination of the Presidency (SCEP) was renewed to continue the work and results achieved during the workshops on gender mainstreaming in their units and programs, with more than 210 SCEP officials and workers trained to raise awareness of the importance and need for women's participation in the System of Development Councils. Several significant advances were achieved by supporting the Secretariat's Gender Unit in technical training and institutional strengthening to promote gender equality in the country's development planning and programming process, and as an accompaniment to the Secretariat and its liaison and linkage with SEPREM to bring a cross-cutting gender approach to units and programmes.

Substantial progress has been made in the design and implementation of the National Policy for the Advancement and Integral Development of Guatemalan Women, the Equal Opportunity Plan 2008-2023 and the Equal Opportunity Plan, as well as other institutional or municipal policies and public policy instruments such as the National Plan for Non-Violence against Women (PLANOVI). Though, these have been threatened by periods of political setbacks, mainly in relation to the implementation of policies and programmes that respond to the needs of women in economic activities and institutional mechanisms that advocate for women's rights and public policy with a gender perspective. Ministries normally haven't included women in their planning and budgeting as a core element of the implementation of public programmatic offerings. For this reason, the JP RWEE, through their partnership with the Presidential Secretariat for Women (SEPREM), held consecutive workshops over the years to build capacity in MAGA and SCEP in all the units involved in implementing programmes related to the National Policy for the Comprehensive Development of Women (PNPDIM), the Integrated Rural Development Policy (PNDR) and the gender policy of both institutions, with the aim of integrating gender equality throughout their programme, organisational and budgetary axis. Similarly, this was done with institutional mechanisms such as the Presidential Secretariat for Women, the Office for the Defence of Indigenous Women's Rights, the National Coordinating Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Violence against Women, the National Women's Forum, municipal women's offices and the women's committees of the departmental Development Councils.

Technical support was provided to the SCEP for the implementation of the National Policy for the Comprehensive Development of Women (PNPDIM) and its linkage to the budget classifier with a gender perspective, with the aim of identifying gaps and generating a budget allocation proposal. As a result, coordination meetings were organized with authorities from SEPREM and SCEP, at which a joint work plan and an institutional strategic plan were established for the implementation of the PNPDIM and the Equal Opportunity Plan (PEO 2018-2023), aiming to identify which of the programmes carried out by SCEP would implement the policy and mainstream the gender perspective. A report on the training process for the use of the gender thematic classifiers was prepared for the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA) and the Technical Committee on Rural Development and Peoples. The three local governments of La Tinta, Tucuru and Panzos in the Polochic Valley of Alta Verapaz participated in this process, which was carried out with SEPREM.

Two five-stage workshops were held for the secretary, directorates and sub-directorates of SCEP, with the main objectives of: i) establishing how the implementation of the PNPDIM and its PEO would be carried out with the General Directorate for Decentralization and the Directorate of the System of Development Councils, seeking to broaden the participation of women at the national level, (ii) analysing the planning and budget structure to assess whether the actions established in the SCEP road map and programs have a gender sensitive budget and, if not, to link the Gender Budget Classifier.⁴ Technical assistance was also provided to the SCEP Gender Unit (four women and two men) for its alignment and coordination with SEPREM and SEGEPLAN, with the aim of implementing the Development Agenda 2030. Emphasis was placed on working with the Development Councils to mainstream gender into their units and programmes.

⁴ The stages were: (i) Preparation of conditions, (ii) Approval by political authorities, (iii) Analysis and reflection workshops, (iv) Monitoring committee, (v) Analysis of planning and budget structure.

Furthermore, trainings were delivered to 42 members (30 men and 12 women) of the network of gender liaisons of the Development Councils, focusing on international instruments and the responsibilities of the SCEP with respect to women's political participation in alignment with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women - CEDAW -Beijing CSW Belén Dopará and Women's Conferences.

As a result of the work with the SCEP, the decentralization of municipal competencies was achieved, especially in the areas of education - the Directorate General of Out-of-School Education (DIGEEX) - and the prevention of violence (municipalities that qualify under the PRECODE are eligible to decentralize their functions), with Tukurú being one of the municipalities that qualified to access these public funds. Previously this was centralized in Guatemala City, and Tukurú could not access it.

The following capacity strengthening activities with the public sector also took place during 2019;

- 16 workshops were held for development councils (two rounds of eight workshops), where 320 members (77% men, 23% women, since this the standard composition Development Councils) of the Gender Development Councils were trained in gender equality for greater participation by women in the Development Council System, and in the use of the Gender Thematic Classifier.
- Establishment of a road map and a strategy for the involvement of the DMM Municipal Women's Directorates in the decentralization processes, for the incorporation into the process set out in the national decentralization agenda with the aim of ensuring that women have access to public resources - based on the decentralization of municipal competencies.
- 40 coordinators of the gender units of 17 ministries were trained in the use of the Gender Thematic Classifier and results-based budget management through the Technical Roundtable on Rural Development with a gender and peoples' perspective.
- Collaboration with the gender units participating in the Technical Working Group on Rural Development with a Gender and Peoples' Perspective has been strengthened in order to promote inter-institutional coordination and improve strategic planning and progress reporting processes, with the participation of 29 female public officials.
- Technical assistance was provided to the MAGA Gender Unit for implementation of the Institutional Policy on Gender Equality, improvement of its strategic planning procedures, promotion of gender mainstreaming in rural extension and the Family Farming and Peasant Economy Strengthening Programme (PAFFEC), and management and design of projects for women's enterprises.
- 30 Development Councils were strengthened through technical assistance from JP RWEE to the planning unit of the Secretariat and the gender unit for the integration of women in their planning and their annual operational plans.
- Training was provided to 135 key actors in the Secretariat for Executive Coordination of the Presidency (SCEP), the Presidential Secretariat for Women (SEPREM), the Office for the Defence of Indigenous Women (DEMI), the National Council for Urban and Rural Development (CONADUR) and the Municipal Women's Directorates (DMM).

As part of the JP RWEE public advocacy efforts, 140 women participated in walks and talks in commemoration of the Ocho de Marzo - International Women's Day, in the municipalities of la Tinta, Tukurú, Panzos. During this commemoration, 320 members of 30 Development Councils (eight regional and 22 departmental) were trained in gender equality to increase women's participation in the Development Council System and in the use of the Gender Thematic Classifier Eight training events were held for officials of the System of Development Councils on gender and citizen participation processes, as well as for local governments on the subject of decentralization and local governments, and for staff of the Regional Development Council on the use of the "I Know Gender" virtual platform.

II. Describe any delays in implementation, challenges, lessons learned & best practices.

Delays in the Implementation:

There were certain delays in implementation of joint field activities due to the lack of presence of promoting personnel as there was a delay in adjudication processes for hiring them. This was caused by the termination of previous contracts on established dates, set prior to the extension of activities.

Despite the delays, it was decided that women's producer organizations and groups would continue to develop their productive activities, as well as the management of savings and credit groups. The extension of implementation dates produced gaps in the timing for the local promotion team to join formally. Yet, the commitment of the promotion team allowed to maintain the monitoring in the women's groups.

In addition, presidential, municipal and legislative elections were held in Guatemala in 2019. Two targeted municipalities, La Tinta and Panzós, changed local authority; while in Tukurú Municipality the same representative was re-elected. This electoral process affected coordination with government institutions and the beneficiary population, reflected in lower participation in planned activities.

In September 2019, the Government of Guatemala decreed a state of siege in the department of Alta Verapaz, affecting the three municipalities of JP RWEE intervention, for a period of 30 days. People in the municipalities had restricted rights to freedom of action, legal detention, interrogation, freedom of mobility, right of assembly, and carrying of arms. For this reason, the JP RWEE team visited the organisations to provide technical support on an individual basis. Since this situation affected effective compliance with the work schedule, when the state of siege ended, the staff's efforts were oriented towards the effective execution of pending activities.

Challenges:

The main challenges for the JP RWEE implementation in Guatemala have been the following;

- Linking organized and formalized women's groups to the school food market in accordance with the provisions of the National School Food Law, created several challenges including: the availability of products according to menus and their delivery methods (mainly perishable or fresh food items) and the registration and invoicing in tax compliance. In synergy with the Project to Strengthen School Feeding and its linkage to family agriculture in Alta Verapaz, between FAO, IFAD and WFP, actions are being developed to link family agriculture producers with parents' organizations for the purchase of school feeding products, where technical assistance and training have also been provided.
- The lack of continuity of personnel from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA) has been recurrent; especially technical personnel, who have short term contracts and are then rotated from their headquarters. This has caused delay in the transfer of knowledge and in the sustainability of the implemented processes. To this regard, even though knowledge transferring continues, priority has been given to MAGA personnel that are under long term contracts in order to mitigate the risk associated with high rotation.
- The limited presence of public, non-profit or international organizations in the field capable of providing support to the organizations and women's groups that the JP RWEE has supported, following up on actions to improve learning processes and efficiency. Technical assistance and process monitoring are still needed.
- The finalization of the accreditation of the livestock and agricultural processes to a greater number of rural women and the promotion team is important to have a certainty of the installed capacities. In order to accredit the knowledge acquired empirically by rural women participating in livestock and agricultural enterprises, a series of processes have been coordinated with (Technical Training Institute) INTECAP which is the accrediting entity, so that women can continue to develop these activities on a permanent basis.
- The high levels of illiteracy among rural women participating in the JP RWEE limit women's opportunities for participation and empowerment, as literacy is a key aid to promoting women's rights and empowerment. Coordination with the National Literacy Council (CONALFA) has enabled women participating in the JP RWEE to enter literacy programmes and offset this challenge.
- Generate productive initiatives from women, business models that allow them to link to different segments of the market, with which they can achieve competitiveness throughout the process. This has been a major challenge, which is projected to be addressed in the 2020 work plan, through the connection of women's organizations with the private sector.
- In the case of the women's groups that were supported with the improvement of infrastructure for the production of flours, contamination points were observed that resulted from the absence of good manufacturing practices, to raw materials without any type of adequate selection that would provide minimum and stable qualities to the final product. Therefore, training in technology and good practices for processing, packaging and marketing of flours was crucial to

promote and strengthen the elaboration and processing of flours, which allowed them to broaden their vision, as well as to learn processes, procedures and experiences technically necessary for their project.

- Government does not have sufficient availability of training and capacity-building programmes for women, including indigenous women, who wish to enter political life and hold public office. In addition, the awareness of public officials, the media, traditional leaders and the population in general that the full, free and democratic participation of women on an equal footing with men in political and public life is a requirement for the effective implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), as well as for the political stability and economic development of the country.

Lessons Learned:

- The articulation of local government and non-profit institutions with the JP RWEE is a good mechanism for fostering relations aiming to promote the economic empowerment of rural women, while at the same time taking advantage of local capacities and enabling the appropriation of processes implemented. In this regard, strategic alliances with municipalities have enabled those authorities to take ownership of the work being done with rural women, expanding their spaces for participation in decision-making at the municipal and community levels. In addition, the Municipal Women's Offices incorporated into their planning the food and nutritional security needs of rural women as their axis of work.
- The articulated work of the JP RWEE implementing agencies has allowed the efficient use of resources (use of vehicles for joint visits, agricultural inputs and coordinated activities), broadening the actions with rural women. It has allowed to carry out the work in a comprehensive manner, which has contributed to achieving programme objectives.
- The exchange of experiences among beneficiary rural women has supported the socializing and sharing information on the success or failure of undertakings carried out at the associative level. This has increased the confidence of rural women to lead these organizational or group processes and to improve their communication mechanisms and leadership styles, motivating the members. Assertive communication among the latter is an important factor that has contributed to strengthening internal organization of producer associations and has generated confidence among women.
- The implementation of community savings and loan groups has contributed organizational strengthening, becoming a key link in promoting associativity, as well as the motivation to improve their financial and accountability skills for money management.
- Alliances with organizations that have presence in the region (such as the Association for Integral Development - ADRI, Fondo de Tierras, Healing Water International, Plan International, Ministry of Education - Mineduc, Secretariat of Food and Nutritional Security - SESAN, National Literacy Committee - CONALFA) and municipalities has helped achieve programme objectives through coordination and joint actions.
- The standardization of digital tools for information collection has facilitated the work of monitoring and evaluation, ensuring that agencies have clear guidelines on what they wish to report or make visible in the information documents of the JP RWEE.

III. Qualitative Assessment

The economic empowerment of rural women promoted by the JP RWEE has meant that, due to increased access to and control of productive resources, women have increased their productive potential and their capacities to improve food systems in a sustainable manner. This has been achieved mainly through the implementation of agro-ecological practices that protect and preserve soils and water, including non-burning, conservation agriculture, the use of local seeds and stubble management. In addition, human capital has been enhanced through the strengthening of knowledge in the use of time-saving technologies, improved production methods, new products and markets, and business and livelihood skills. Prior to the JP RWEE, little technical assistance and training had been provided for rural women in this region.

Joint management and coordination across the four agencies has helped strengthening communication, time use and management skills, as well as organizational capacity, social inclusion, gender distribution of the workload, and community participation among rural women beneficiaries. It should be noted that this inter-agency work carried out within the JP RWEE has become a favourable space for consolidating the process of collaboration between the four participating agencies in the country, as well as

with the national institutions responsible for strengthening the empowerment and participation of rural women in the territory of the Polochic Valley.

Coordination between the agencies and UN ONE has supported local authorities, women leaders and organized rural women's groups, enabling communities to have better capacities and knowledge about coordination mechanisms in favour of continuity to progress in exercising leadership and participation in their community, while providing tools for production and improving their nutritional knowledge. The above shows that the interagency work of FAO, IFAD, UN-Women and WFP in the same territory, with the same group of beneficiaries in order to achieve the same results, highlights the added value of each of the agencies and the importance of Joint Programmes. The Monitoring and Evaluation has also been strengthened with interagency work, the standardization in the collection of information through digital tools, has facilitated this work, complementing the accompaniment of the agencies in the field stage.

In the area of coordination with government institutions, the Rural Extension System of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA) has been supported in the production activities of rural women, and greater use of learning systems has been promoted. In the case of the Ministry of the Economy (MINECO), actions have been coordinated at the national and municipal levels with regard to the strengthening of women's groups as entrepreneurs. The issue of food and nutritional security was coordinated with the Secretariat of Food and Nutritional Security (SESAN). Partnerships for inter-institutional cooperation between SCEP and the Presidential Secretariat for Women were strengthened, in accordance with institutional mandates for compliance with the National Policy for the Advancement and Integral Development of Women and the Plan for Equal Opportunities. Likewise, a strategic alliance was established with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA), the Ministry of the Economy (MINECO), the Presidential Secretariat for Women (SEPREM), SCEP, the Association for Comprehensive Development (ADP), CONALFA, PRODENORTE and municipalities.

Moreover, the JP RWEE has established cooperation agreements with the following institutions: Ministry of Labour and Social Security, with the Centre for Action on Corporate Social Responsibility (CentraRSE), the Central American Secretariat for Economic Integration (SIECA), Alterna and the Global Network of Indigenous Entrepreneurs.

Financial Report January-December 2019

EXPENSES BUDGET SWEDEN FUNDS						
Category Reference	Expense Description	FAO	WFP	ONU W	IFAD	Total
1	Staff and other personnel costs	\$ 6,449	\$ 36,000	\$ 718	\$ 9,423	\$ 52,590
2	Supplies, Commodities, Materials	\$ 38,917	\$ 3,900	\$ 6,132	\$ -	\$ 48,949
3	Equipment, Vehicles and Furniture including Depreciation	\$ -	\$ 9,200	\$ 26,563	\$ -	\$ 35,763
4	Contractual Services	\$ -	\$ 57,400	\$ 98,241	\$ 14,210	\$ 169,851
5	Travel	\$ 3,937	\$ 9,800	\$ 19,008	\$ 9,206	\$ 41,951
6	Transfers and Grants Counterparts	\$ 48,193	\$ 73,000		\$ -	\$ 121,193
7	General Operating and Other Direct Costs	\$ 35,553	\$ 16,931	\$ 30,868	\$ -	\$ 83,352
8	Indirect Support Costs (cannot exceed 7%)	\$ 9,313	-		\$ 8,158	\$ 17,471
9	Total Received funds	\$ 770,688	\$ 1,304,292	\$ 1,087,774	\$ 125,500	\$ 3,288,254
10	Agency Earned Interest Income					
11	Refunds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:

	<u>Achieved</u> Target indicators	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Outcome 1 Improved food and nutrition security			
<p>Indicator 1.1 Percentage of households that improve their food security according to the Latin American Scale and Caribbean Food Security (ELCSA)</p> <p>Baseline: 88% of households show a level of food insecurity by ELCSA metrics (1,015 households) Planned target: 59.7% households that improve their food security according ELCSA (606 households)</p>	<p>ELCSA will be measured in the next final evaluation.</p>	<p>According to the JP RWEE baseline study, 88 per cent of households are food insecure, equivalent to 1,015 households out of 1,159. The plan is that in the end there will be 59.7% (606 out of 1,015) who have improved their food security levels.</p>	<p>Field trips, reports</p>
<p>Indicator 1.2: Percentage of rural women and their households that improve their nutrition according to the FCS (Food Consumption Score)</p> <p>Baseline:80% households with acceptable status. (FCS⁵). Planned target: 90% households that improve their nutrition according to the FSC.</p>	<p>FCS will be measured in the next final evaluation.</p>	<p>According to the JP RWEE baseline, it indicates that 80% of households have acceptable levels of nutrition.20% have a level of poverty and at the nutrition threshold. Therefore, the plan estimates that 90% will be at acceptable levels.</p>	<p>Field trips, reports</p>

⁵ According to the FCS “the households food consumption status based on the following thresholds: 0-21: Poor, 21.5-35: Borderline, >35: Acceptable”

<p>Indicator 1.3: Percentage increase in the production of corn and beans</p> <p>Baseline: 0.45 TM/Ha production of corn and beans. According to FAO baseline study: 1.32 TM/Ha. Corn 0.77 TM/Ha. Bean</p> <p>Planned target: 10% Increase in the production of corn and beans.</p>	<p>49.5% Increase in corn (1.97 MT/ha in corn) 33.3% Increase in Beans (1.03 MT/ha in beans)</p>	<p>Baseline indicates that 94% of women produce between less than 1 qq and 5 qq of corn and beans on an average of half a hectare of land. This means that up to 10 qq of corn and beans are produced on 1 hectare, which is equal to 0.45 MT ($10/22 = 0.45$). FAO records the baseline separately for maize and bean production at: 1.32 MT per hectare in maize production and 0.77 MT/Ha in bean production.</p>	<p>Production's register</p>
<p>Output 1.1 Rural women have increased access to resources, assets and services critical for their food and nutrition security.</p>			
<p>Indicator 1.1.1: Number of new best farm and backyard practices implemented</p> <p>Baseline:0 Planned target: 10 best farm and backyard practices (benefiting 1,237 rural women).</p>	<p>20 practices (857 rural women accessing them)</p>		<p>Records, field trips, photographs</p>
<p>Indicator 1.1.2: Number of rural women trained in food security</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Planned target: 380 rural women trained in food security</p>	<p>822 (594 women and 228 men) trained in gender-sensitive food and nutrition security</p>	<p>Here it includes the women of the OPF parent organizations, in the school feeding activities.</p>	<p>Participation list Reports</p>

<p>Indicator 1.1.3: Percentage of rural women trained in nutrition and proper use of foods including food preparation</p> <p>Baseline:0 Planned target: 50% of 380 rural women in nutrition and proper use of food, including preparation</p>	<p>100% (1,125) of rural women trained in nutrition and proper use of foods including food preparation</p>		<p>Reports</p>
<p>Indicator 1.1.4: Number of new best practices for improving biological utilization and consumption</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Planned target: Five new practices in self-consumption-related</p>	<p>10 new practices</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: Percentage reduction of post-harvest farm and storage losses</p> <p>Baseline:17% of targeted rural women had losses during postharvest Planned target: 100% of targeted rural women reduced losses during postharvest 10% reduction of post-harvest farm and storage losses</p>	<p>100% of rural women have managed to reduce post-harvest losses. (857 women) 21.7% reduction in post-harvest losses</p>	<p>The baseline measured the percentage of women who have had a loss. The initial percentage of loss is not available.</p> <p>Both data are provided.</p> <p>17% of a total of 857 women.</p>	<p>Reports, field trips</p>
<p>Indicator 1.2.2: Number of post-harvest practices for markets</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Planned target: One practice</p>	<p>Practice: Use of plastic silos to store corn grains</p>		

Outcome 2 Rural women have increased income to secure their livelihoods			
<p>Indicator 2.1: Number of producer organizations that have increased their income through sales.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 producer organizations Planned target: 20 producer organization of rural women.</p>	<p>69 (100%) Producer organizations have increased their sales 2,107 people (1,874 and 233 men)</p>		Reports
<p>Indicator 2.2: Percentage of rural women belonging to producer organizations that increase their entrepreneurial skills through training</p> <p>Baseline: 6% (72 rural women) Planned target: 20 % (216 rural women)</p>	<p>38% (641 women)</p>		Sales records Savings records
<p>Indicator 2.3: Total income generated by sales.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Planned target: US\$ 20,000 annual</p>	<p>Total: US\$ 128,921 (US\$ 101,854 gross from association sales and US\$ 27,067 generated in sales of farm and backyard production groups).</p> <p>Total US\$ 106,062 generated in savings by 46 savings groups.</p>		
<p>Indicator 2.4 Percentage increase of sales of surpluses farm and backyard</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Planned target: 10% increase of sales (of 407 rural women)</p>	<p>40% increase in sales (703 rural women went from US\$ 97.80 in monthly sales to US\$ 100 in monthly sales).</p>	<p>Sales correspond to farm and backyard production</p>	Sale´s register
Output 2.1 Rural women have enhanced entrepreneurship skills and value chains to access markets for their products			

<p>Indicator 2.1.1: Number of productive harvest technologies and practices for marketing</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Planned target: Two practices and one technology</p> <p>Indicator 2.1.2: Number of producer organizations receiving technical assistance to improve production technology and marketing practices</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Planned target: Three organizations</p>	<p>Two Technologies (shelling machines, mills) Two Practices (Promotion of services at home, promotion of products in municipal fairs).</p> <p>49 producer organizations receiving Technical Assistance</p>		<p>Reports</p>
<p>Outcome 3: Rural women have enhanced leadership and participation in their communities and in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programmes.</p>			
<p>Indicator 3.1: Percentage of women who take part in decision-making spaces at the organizational level</p> <p>Baseline: 18% of women participants Planned target: 25 % of women participants</p> <p>Indicator 3.2: Percentage of rural women elected as representatives in rural councils.</p> <p>Baseline: 5% rural women elected representatives in rural councils. Planned target: 5% of 240 rural women are part of rural councils (COCODES/COMUDES)</p> <p>Indicator 3.3: Percentage of Producers Organizations led by women</p>	<p>30% of rural women participants (240 women)</p> <p>3.75% of 240 elected women (Seven women are members of the COCODES and two in COMUDES)</p> <p>100% (69) of the producer</p>	<p>They are members of the different committees of their organizations.</p>	<p>Participants list</p>

<p>Baseline: 92% of 69 producers' organizations are led by women Planned target: 100% of Producers Organizations are led by women</p> <p>Indicator 3.4: Evidence of empowerment of rural women in decision -making in their homes</p> <p>Baseline: 11% rural women Planned target: 20 % rural women</p>	<p>organizations are led by women.</p> <p>0%.</p>	<p>This will be done through the JP RWEE Evaluation.</p>	
<p>Output 3.2 Rural women have greater organizational capacities to form, sustain and participate into POs, cooperatives and unions.</p>			
<p>Indicator 3.2.1: Number of informal rural women's groups to formally join POs, cooperatives and unions.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Planned target: Five formal groups</p> <p>Indicator 3.2.2: Number of producer organizations adopting gender policies</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Planned target: 20% organizations</p>	<p>Five groups</p> <p>37% (seven producer organizations comprising 294 rural women) producer organizations implement gender policies in the Organization.</p>	<p>Five of the Level 1 groups (from FAO, which are not registered as organizations) have been involved in group sales of products, potentially to organize themselves properly.</p>	<p>Registration of organizations</p>
<p>Output 3.4 Rural women know their rights and participation and decision-making mechanisms at the organizational, community, municipal and national level.</p>			
<p>Indicator 3.4.1: Number of rural women who gain knowledge of their rights</p> <p>Baseline: 270 rural women</p>	<p>758 rural women received training on their rights.</p>		<p>Participants list</p>

<p>Planned target: 500 rural women</p> <p>Indicator 3.4.2: Number of rural women who know the mechanisms of participation and decision-making at community, district and national organizational level.</p> <p>Baseline: 221 rural women Planned target: 1,200 rural women</p>	<p>758 rural women know the mechanisms of participation and decision making</p> <p>168 people (148 women and 20 men) from 14 groups were trained directly in the application of the GALS methodology, who subsequently carried out 121 replications.</p>		<p>Participants list</p>
<p>Outcome 4: A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women</p>			
<p>Indicator 4.1: Number of policies and strategies that contribute to women's productive and entrepreneurial development, guaranteeing their access to resources, goods and services of government budgets and donor funding allocated to programmes benefitting rural women</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Planned target: 1</p> <p>Indicator 4.2: An updated system of gender indicators that is internationally comparable.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Planned target: 1</p>	<p>One policy and one strategy</p> <p>Technical assistance to the National Institute of Statistics -INE- and the Presidential Secretariat for Women - SEPREM⁶</p>		

⁶ Technical assistance for the design and implementation of the Satellite Account for Unpaid Household Work for the National Statistical System, with international comparability to make visible the contribution of women from unpaid household work, in coordination with the National Statistical Institute, the Bank of Guatemala and the Presidential Secretariat for Women, Guatemala being one of the five countries in the region that has this type of measurement.

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 alternative methodologies that contribute to women's economic empowerment at the local level and comply with PNPDIM political guidelines. Baseline: 0 Planned Target: Four methodologies	Four methodologies. ⁷		
Indicator 4.1.2: Number of government institutions with initiatives that promote women's economic rights in their programs, projects and activities. Baseline: One institution Planned Target: One government institution and one national mechanism	Four institutions ⁸		
Output 4.2: Public officials are aware of the limitations for economic empowerment of rural women and apply criteria to guarantee women's access to the services they provide			
Indicator 4.2.1: Number of criteria used to ensure women's access to services provided by institutions Baseline: 0 Planned target 2 criteria	Five criteria (applied in the learning path process)		(the topics of the trainings have been

⁷ Learning routes for improving the participation and economic empowerment of rural women to be used by rural extension staff -MAGA-; 2. Methodology for strengthening women's participation in productive organizations (gender equality commissions for mixed organizations and empowerment commissions for women's organizations).

⁸ Municipalities (Municipal Women's Directorates); Gender Unit MAGA; Executive Secretariat of the Presidency SCEP; Presidential Secretariat of the Presidency SEPREM

<p>Indicator 4.2.2: Number of public officers trained on gender issues</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Planned target: 100 officers</p>	<p>495 officers trained on gender issues</p>	<p>indicated in the descriptive part).</p>	
<p>Output 4.3: An enabling environment is promoted to reflect rural women's priorities in regional and global policy processes.</p>			
<p>Indicator 4.3.1: Number of regional dialogue mechanisms / National strengthened to promote the empowerment of rural women</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Planned target: One dialogue mechanism</p>	<p>Technical Board for Rural Development and Indigenous People</p>		

iii) An Individual Story

Concepción Pop Cac de Sacul, the weaver.

The community Jolomjix 1 is located in Panzós, Alta Verapaz. In the small village, lives Concepcion, A 51 year old Q'eqchi' Mayan woman, mother of four daughters and a son, grandmother, wife, daughter and sister.

“Doña na'xcon”, as she is known in the community, has been frequently visited since her weaving skills are unique. Her charisma and patience to teach always make her sought after by the girls and young women for the transfer of her knowledge. Weaving involves the use of techniques and colour combinations and implementing new designs that are very challenging, since each symbol has a meaning and a reason for being, which is why doña na' xcon's weaving is so special. Due to the antiquity and originality of the technique, it is relevant to preserve this art, which beyond a fabric, is ancestral knowledge embodied in looms.



Through the JP RWEE, she is oriented to strengthen values, capacities, abilities, as well as technical and technological skills that promote the generation of sustainable community productive ventures, contributing to multiple initiatives in artisan waist weaving.

Achieving a market within her community, municipality, department and now at national level, has been a process where she was accompanied by the JP RWEE, receiving trainings in topics such as entrepreneurship, production costs, economic empowerment and leadership. Useful tools to improve the quality of the fabrics and that have encouraged her to value and diversify her product. The experience in the markets at a municipal and departmental level has made her realize that she can compete with other fellow weavers, while maintaining the originality of the fabrics.

After entering the JP RWEE, Concepción started to carry her work with an organization of women weavers accredited at the municipal level, allowing them to be recognized and to produce together without having to go far from their communities and households.

Challenging the Spanish language and with only the third grade, Concepcion also started to prepare in the literacy program along with CONALFA. As she states; *“Now we share that all women have knowledge and skills to undertake an activity within their home and thus contribute to the family economy by setting goals, this can only be achieved with effort and courage, because leaving the community is difficult. Thanks to the training we have received through the JP RWEE, we have been able to wake up, listen, know our rights and empower ourselves to say what we feel and act so that our daughters and sons are better than us and can live in harmony”*