



Joint Programme
“Accelerating Progress towards the
Economic Empowerment of Rural Women”
Global Learning Plan
October 2019

A. Background and rationale

This document outlines a Global Learning Plan, containing activities for the next steps under the Joint Programme on “Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women” (JP RWEE).

Implemented since the end of 2014 by FAO, IFAD, WFP, and UN Women, the JP RWEE has four outcomes: (i) rural women’s improved food and nutrition security; (ii) increased incomes to sustain livelihoods; (iii) enhanced leadership and participation in decision making; and (iv) a more gender-responsive policy environment.

More than 49,000 rural women and at least 315,000 members of their households have benefitted from the JP RWEE as of end 2018. To document this impact, the participating agencies have produced several knowledge products summarizing lessons learned and good practices. These products provide the development community with access to proven approaches for gender equality programming and examples of good UN collaboration.

Since 2016, there has been an increasing focus on knowledge management, to ensure that information about the programme, as well as the experiences and lessons learnt, are shared widely. This process of systematization led for example to the organisation of a Learning Workshop in February 2017, the preparation of a publication on the JP RWEE Good Practices¹ in March 2018, and the recruitment of a Junior Consultant working on Knowledge Management and Communication in January 2019.

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

B. Main Objectives

- Facilitate and strengthen the management, development, documentation, dissemination, and use of knowledge emerging from the implementation of the JP RWEE, in order to inform project performance, improve delivery, and scale up best practices and innovations;
- Document the “JP RWEE model” for easy replication and scale up by national counterparts or other interested partners;

¹<http://mptf.undp.org/document/download/19222>.



- Enhance knowledge sharing “ad intra” (namely within the programme and among the country teams) and “ad extra” between various stakeholders, and in-country partners working on development issues in pilot countries;
- Inform the general public on activities and achievements associated to the implementation of the JP RWEE, increase its visibility, and raise its profile, through more effective communication instruments and approaches.

C. Indicative activities

1. Conducting a joint evaluation of the JP RWEE (Lead: FAO)

Routine monitoring has supported the tracking of implementation of the JP RWEE and monitoring of progress on achievement of the four outcomes. An evaluation is, however, needed to systematically and comprehensively assess the results of the JP RWEE, including how and why they were achieved. The evaluation will also enable country analyses and an assessment of the value of the global framework and governance mechanism. This is expected to i) assess JP RWEE performance in supporting rural women’s empowerment and promoting gender equality, ii) enable cross-fertilization among participating countries, iii) act as an accountability and learning mechanism for JP RWEE donors and wider constituency, and iv) inform future action of the JP RWEE and other joint programmes at large, especially in view of a subsequent phase of the programme. An evaluation manager will also be recruited to make sure all administrative and operational requirements of the joint evaluation are met.

2. Developing policy briefs on issues of relevance of the JP RWEE (Lead: UN Women)

The implementation of the JP RWEE offers policy lessons, good practices and policy tools that have been tested on the ground. Yet programme reports suggest gaps in policy orientation as well as implementation for gender-responsive rural development associated with the four outcome areas of the programme. To address this gap, policy briefs linked to the four outcome areas of the JP RWEE will be developed in order to enable international, national and local stakeholders to formulate evidence-based policies that effectively promote rural women’s economic empowerment. The policy briefs will focus on i) making livelihoods sustainable for rural women; ii) why climate resilient agriculture matters for rural women’s economic empowerment; iii) women and technology in rural areas; and iv) making markets work for rural women.

3. Preparing a synthesis report of the Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index/WEAI (Lead: IFAD)

The innovative “Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index” (WEAI) has been one of the JP RWEE M&E cornerstones. The WEAI measures who is empowered in the household (men,



women or both) and how they are empowered, according to five domains: i) decisions about agricultural production, ii) access and decision-making over productive resources, iii) control and use of income, iv) leadership in the community, and v) time allocation.² The WEAI has been used as baseline surveys in four of the seven JP RWEE countries,³ while endlines will be collected in six participating countries.⁴ These datasets are expected to provide an opportunity to describe how the programme has contributed to women's empowerment at country level, as well as comparing empowerment results across countries.

4. Organising a consolidation workshop with JP RWEE stakeholders in one of the participating countries (Lead: WFP through Global Coordination)

The workshop's main objective will be to draw major lessons from the learning pillar of the JP RWEE, contributing towards a research and capacity strengthening agenda on a holistic approach to women's economic empowerment. The workshop will include members of the four Participating UN Organisations at HQ level, and a maximum of three participants from each country. Representatives of the donors and the Multi-Partner Trust Fund of UNDP – Administrative Agent of the JP – will also be invited. The consolidation workshop will constitute an opportunity to share and learn from each other's experiences and cross-fertilize successful approaches to rural women's economic empowerment, and to identify, communicate and systematize the achievements, challenges, lessons learned and success stories from the implementation of activities on the ground. The workshop will further help to identify different working modalities that have enabled cooperation among the four Agencies on operational and programmatic aspects of the Joint Programme.

5. Documenting good practices, innovations and successful approaches in each JP RWEE country (Lead: WFP through Global Coordination)

Guidelines will be distributed to the seven countries by proposing a two- or three-month implementation period. A reward comprising of participation in conferences or other kinds of visibility (e.g. video/ help in write-up of case study, publication on website/etc.) may be offered to the country team that implements the guidelines and develop a good practice/good practices in the Framework of the JP RWEE in the most efficient and effective way.

² The WEAI is a survey-based Index developed by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI). There are now different versions of the WEAI available, which allows for adaption to projects' needs. The abbreviated WEAI (A-WEAI) is the basic metric consistent across all versions of the WEAI; the PRO-WEAI is instead the version used to best cater projects.

³ Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, and Niger.

⁴ Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Niger and Rwanda.



All the above activities (whose detailed concept notes are presented as an annex to this Action Plan) will be supported by the Global Coordination team (Global Coordinator and Junior Consultant on Knowledge Management). The Global Coordination team will continue to provide backstopping support to participating countries (including travel to and from pilot countries), and manage the communication and resource mobilisation of the JP RWEE.

D. Deliverables

In line with the indicative activities listed above, relevant RWEE programme documents (annual reports, evaluations, and other relevant documents) will be reviewed, compiled in a folder for each country, and uploaded on the Agencies' website or other knowledge management platforms. This will include;

1. JP RWEE Joint Evaluation report;
2. Four policy briefs on:
 - Making livelihoods sustainable for rural women: lessons from the joint programme on rural women's economic empowerment.
 - Why climate resilient agriculture matters for rural women's economic empowerment.
 - Women and technology in rural areas: Strengthening the adoption of time- and labour-saving technologies by rural women.
 - Making markets work for rural women: lessons from the joint programme.
3. WEAL synthesis report, including a technical annex presenting the methodology used for the analysis for each of the countries and for the synthesis report.
4. "Good practices from JP RWEE countries" compiled and available in one publication;
5. Report from the consolidation workshop, including lessons learned;
6. Other relevant JP RWEE documents (including final consolidated report) reviewed, compiled in a folder for each country, and uploaded on the Agencies' website or other knowledge management platforms.

E. Budget

The total budget of the activities proposed above is USD 1,095,571 to be transferred to the four Participating UN Organisations under direct costs based on the following breakdown:



PROGRAMME BUDGET (in USD)					
CATEGORY	FAO	IFAD	WFP	UNWOMEN	TOTAL
1. Staff and other personnel costs	50,000		423,230	20,000	493,230
2. Supply, Commodities, Materials					
3. Equipment, Vehicles and Furniture including Depreciation					
4. Contractual Services	290,000	50,000	24,600	12,000	376,600
5. Travel	10,000		110,806		120,806
6. Transfers and Grants Counterparts					
7. General Operating and Other Direct Costs	10,000		25,994		35,994
Total Programme Costs	360,000	50,000	584,630	32,000	1,026,630
8. Indirect Support Costs	25,200	3,500	38,001	2,240	68,941
TOTAL	385,200	53,500	622,631	34,240	1,095,571

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F. Names and Signatures of Participating UN Organisations

[Redacted Signature]

Name/Date:

[Redacted Name/Date]

(On behalf of FAO)

Title:

[Redacted Title]

[Redacted Signature]

Name/Date:

[Redacted Name/Date]

(On behalf of IFAD)

Title:

[Redacted Title]



[Redacted]
[Redacted]
(On behalf of WFP)

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
(On behalf of UN Women)

Name/Date: [Redacted]

Title: [Redacted]

Name/Date: S [Redacted]
Title: C [Redacted]

G. List of Annexes

1. *Terms of Reference of the Global Evaluation of the JP RWEE;*
2. *Development of policy briefs for global learning concept note;*
3. *Development of WEAI synthesis report for global learning concept note;*
4. *JP RWEE Consolidation Workshop concept note;*
5. *Detailed list of activities for Global Coordination.*