

JOINT PROGRAMME ON:
Accelerating Progress towards
Rural Women's Economic Empowerment



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Investing in rural people



World Food
Programme

FINAL REPORT

2014-2021



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Programme title and project number

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

Participating organizations

- FAO
- IFAD
- UN Women
- WFP

Programme/Project cost (USD)

USD 35,000,000

MPTF Contribution:

- FAO: USD 7,683,465
- IFAD: USD 3,319,964
- UN Women: USD 8,693,398
- WFP: USD 9,753,224

Government Contribution:

- Norway: USD 6,127,970
- Sweden: USD 23,036,889

TOTAL: USD 29,164,859

Programme Assessment/Review/MTR

Evaluation Completed Yes No

Evaluation Report Yes No

Country, locality(s), priority area(s) / Strategic results

- Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda.
- *The strategic result is to secure rural women's livelihoods and rights in the context of sustainable development and the SDGs*

Implementing partners

- Government Ministries, NGOs/CSOs, private sector, and other UN Agencies and International Organizations.

Programme duration

Overall Duration: 80 months

- Start Date 15/10/2014
- Original End Date 14/10/2019
- Current End Date 31/06/2022

Have agency(ies) operationally closed the Programme in its(their) system?

Yes No

Expected Financial Closure date 31/05/2022

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Contributing donors



Norwegian Ministry
of Foreign Affairs



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Photo: WFP Kyrgyzstan/ 2016

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Acronyms

AIF	Africa Improved Foods
ADS	Agriculture Development Strategy
BALI	Business Action Learning for Inclusion
BDS	Business Development Services
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
EWLRTF	Ethiopian Women's Land Rights Task Force
EAX	East Africa Exchange
FAL	Functional Adult Literacy
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCA	Federal Cooperatives Agency
FCS	Food Consumption Score
FFLS	Farmer Field and Life School
FFS	Farmer Field Schools
GALS	Gender Action Learning System
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
GRAST	Gender and Rural Advisory Services Assessment Tool
ICT	Information Communication Technologies
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IVR	Interactive Voice Response
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding
JP	Joint Programme
LISGIS	Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services
MAGA	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MINAGRI	Ministry of Agriculture
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
MPTF	Multi Partner Trust Fund
NAP	National Action Plan
NAP	National Agriculture Policy
NGES	National Gender Equality Strategy
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NWC	National Women's Council
Norad	Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
POs	Producer Organisations
PUNOs	Participating UN Organizations
QFL	Query for My Leader
RBAAs	Rome-Based Agencies
RC	Resident Coordinator
RERP	Rural Enterprises Remittances Programme
RUSACCOs	Rural Savings and Credit Cooperatives
RWEE	Rural Women's Economic Empowerment
SBCC	Social Behaviour Change Communication
Sida	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
VSLAs	Village Savings and Loan Associations
WEAI	Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index
WFP	World Food Programme

Definitions

Allocation

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

Approved Project/Programme

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

Contributor commitment

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

Contributor deposit

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

Delivery rate

The percentage of funds that have been utilized, calculated by comparing expenditures reported by a Participating Organization against the 'net funded amount'. This does not include expense commitments by Participating Organisations.

Indirect support costs

A general cost that cannot be directly related to any particular programme or activity of the Participating Organizations. UNSDG policy establishes a fixed indirect cost rate of 7% of programmable costs for inter-agency pass-through MPTFs.

Net funded amount

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

Participating organization

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

Project expenditure

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

Project financial closure

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

Project operational closure

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

Project start date

Project/ Joint programme start date as per the programmatic document.

Total approved budget

This represents the cumulative amount of allocations approved by the Steering Committee.

US Dollar Amount

The financial data in the report is recorded in US Dollars.



NARRATIVE REPORT

A close-up photograph of a woman with dark hair, wearing a green lace top, looking down and writing in a spiral notebook with a pen. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people in a group setting.

Executive Summary

The Joint Programme “Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women” (JP RWEE) was a global pilot initiative with an overarching goal to secure rural women’s livelihoods and rights in the context of sustainable development. The programme was jointly implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), UN Women and the World Food Programme (WFP) in Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Nepal, Niger, and Rwanda from October 2014 to June 2021¹. The JP RWEE built on each agency’s comparative advantage and strengths to improve the status of women in rural areas and is the only such initiative between the three Rome-based agencies (RBAs) and UN Women. The programme reached approximately 79,626 direct beneficiaries and over 400,000 households indirectly² during the years of implementation.

The JP RWEE adopted a holistic approach to women’s economic empowerment, working towards four interrelated outcomes: i. improved food and nutrition security ii. increased income to sustain livelihoods iii. enhanced participation in decision-making and iv. a more gender-responsive policy environment for rural women in agriculture. Significant achievements were realised across outcomes 1 to 3, and, to a lesser extent, outcome 4³. In all countries⁴, there were improvements in dietary diversity and food consumption habits amongst the targeted beneficiaries, as well as sizeable increases in agricultural production, both of which contributed to enhanced household food security and nutrition. Transformative changes in social norms and behaviour in relation to cultural practices around food consumption also took place and contributed to these improvements. Substantial increases in the incomes of rural women were achieved, which, in addition to improving livelihoods, was found to have made a considerable impact on women’s financial autonomy and their role in relation to household decision

making on finance. Key to this achievement was building rural women’s capacity in agriculture production and entrepreneurship and enabling their access to opportunities, markets, technologies, resources and services, thereby removing barriers to rural women’s participation in sustainable livelihoods activities. Women’s participation and leadership in rural life was also advanced significantly as a result of the programme’s interventions, with clear changes taking place with regards to gender roles at household and community levels. The number of women in leadership positions in groups and POs increased and, in some countries, women were elected to local councils. At the national level, whilst policy level related change takes longer to measure, key technical support provided to national governments by the JP RWEE included the development of gender mainstreaming strategies into agricultural policies, critical to the establishment of a more gender responsive policy environment for rural women’s economic empowerment.

The Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture index tool was used to assess whether women had been empowered by the programme in Ethiopia, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal and Niger. In all of these countries, women participating in the programme were found to be more empowered than women in the control group. Women had a greater likelihood of being empowered and a higher empowerment score, as well as greater likelihood of gender parity within households. Improvements were shown in indicators including workload balance, increased input into productive decisions, increased access to and decisions on credit and increased control over the use of income.

Partnerships were key to the success of the programme and included the host governments of participating countries, nongovernmental and civil society organisations, private sector actors, other United Nations entities and the Governments of Sweden and Norway. The programme

¹ A no cost extension was approved beyond the end date of December 2020 as a result of the delays to implementation caused by COVID-19 related restrictions to movement in 2020. Further extensions were approved for Rwanda and Ethiopia (31/08/22) and Nepal (30/09/22) due to additional restrictions to movement in 2021.

² Calculated based on average family size.

³ FAO, IFAD, UN Women, WFP and Mokoro, 2021. Accelerating Progress towards Rural Women’s Economic Empowerment in Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Nepal, Niger and Rwanda from 2014 to 2020: Final Evaluation, Rome. <https://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/RWFO0>

⁴ Data for Guatemala was unavailable.

Table 1. BREAKDOWN OF JP RWEE DIRECT AND INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES BY COUNTRY

Country	Women	Men	Total beneficiaries per country	Average Household Size	Total household member beneficiaries
Ethiopia	4,700	0	4,700	4.8	22,560
Guatemala	9,191	2,812	12,003	4.8	57,614
Kyrgyzstan	4,547	1,270	5,817	5.2	30,248
Liberia	16,144	1,688	17,832	5.3	94,509
Nepal	3,622	0	3,622	4.8	17,385
Niger	15,837	1,640	17,477	5.9	103,114
Rwanda	10,406	7,869	18,275	4.5	82,237
Total	64,447	15,382	79,626	TOTAL	407,667

also established successful governance and coordination mechanisms and joint ways of working which, once they had become established, were key to smooth implementation and Delivering as One UN. Continuity in programme implementation was, however, impacted by a lack of multi annual funding, which is a pre-requisite for achieving long term change.

Key programme results include the following:

- 82% average increase in production;

- Over US \$3,600,000 generated from sales at the individual and group levels;
- On average 77% of POs led by rural women;
- Approximately 40,000 people (91 percent women and 9 percent men) benefitted from capacity strengthening activities in agricultural production techniques;
- Over US\$ 1,900,000, mobilised through savings and loan schemes;
- More than 42,000 women’s group members with improved skills on business development, financial management and marketing;
- More than 19,000 beneficiaries initiated or strengthened self-employment and income-generating activities in both the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors;
- 145 formalised women’s groups (including 124 Producer Organisations);

- Approximately 20,000 beneficiaries trained or sensitised through gender transformative approaches;
- Over 5,800 civil servants participated in awareness raising events and training

One unintended but significant impact of the programme was the role it played in better enabling rural women and their households to withstand external shock, most notably that caused by the global COVID-19 pandemic, in addition to natural disasters caused by climate change. This was considered as a key learning and has been incorporated into the design of the second phase of the programme. Other key learnings included the need to achieve transformative change at local government level, the importance of having sustainability strategies built into programme design, the need for a uniform and robust M&E system. All of these learnings have been incorporated into the design of the second phase of the programme.

Figure 1. JP RWEE BENEFICIARIES BY COUNTRY AS PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL

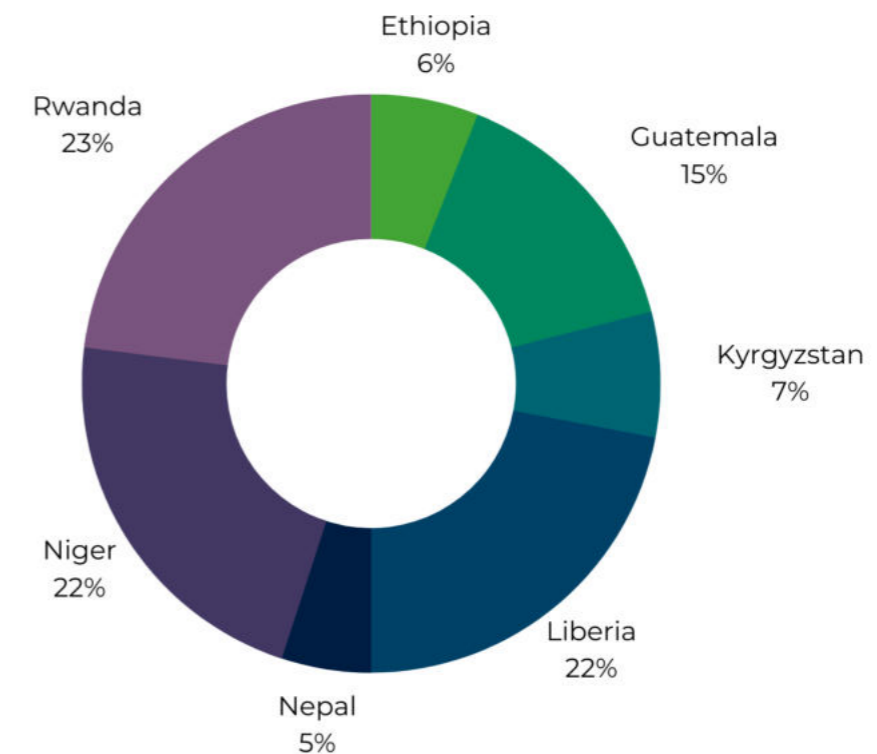


Photo: UN Women Nepal/ 2016



Purpose

Rural women are key agents of change who are at the forefront of agricultural production, supporting food security and nutrition. The income they generate contributes to rural economies, as well as to the health and wellbeing of their families and communities. Despite their critical role in the eradication of poverty, rural women continue to face systemic barriers that limit their access to productive resources, opportunities and services, including agricultural inputs, finance, education, land, training, market information, and technology. This restricted access is further compounded by broader systemic barriers, including a disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work. Rural women are predominantly excluded from decision-making structures and processes, and deeply entrenched social norms and patriarchal systems further impede their ability to fully participate and equally benefit from economic activities. All of which are exacerbated during times of conflict, climate change, and crisis.

Based on the premise that the multitude of issues constraining rural women's economic empowerment require a holistic and integrated approach that goes beyond the mandate of an individual UN entity, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) established the Joint Programme 'Advancing Progress Towards Women's Economic Empowerment' (JP RWEE) in October 2012. Since 2014, these four participating organizations (PUNOs) have jointly implemented the JP RWEE in seven countries (Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Nepal, Niger, and Rwanda) to unlock rural women's economic potential, foster their income opportunities and secure their sustainable livelihoods. JP RWEE's work in gender equality and women's economic empowerment is based on four outcome areas: i) Improved food and nutrition security; ii) Increased income to secure livelihoods; iii) Enhanced leadership and participation in decision-making; and iv) A more gender-responsive policy environment for rural women in agriculture.



Results

Narrative Reporting on Results

The JP RWEE adopted a number of programme strategies to achieve the four programme outcomes and the overall programme goal. Central to this was developing individual, collective and institutional capacity, which contributed to both the achievement of results and the long-term sustainability of the programme. The programme worked at the household, community and institutional levels and through multiple partners, including national and local government and implementing NGOs. A multi-track strategy with the aim of achieving short, medium, and long term results was also applied. In the short term, the focus was on enhancing production and access to income; in the medium term on increasing participation and leadership among rural women through capacity building and skills development; in the long term, the programme worked to promote gender responsive policy and legal environments for rural women's economic empowerment.

Women's groups (informal groups, self-help groups, formally registered cooperatives, and larger Producer Organisations) were one of the main entry points for the programme. Targeting included the poorest and most vulnerable rural women, as well as smallholder women farmers with economic potential. Inclusion of the most marginalised groups included survivors of GBV, people living with HIV, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and indigenous women (varying depending on the country context). The programme reached almost 80,000 direct beneficiaries and over 400,000 indirect beneficiaries¹ during the six and a half years of implementation.

The main results achieved are detailed in the narrative below. The overall performance indicator table is included in Annex One.

OUTCOME 1: RURAL WOMEN HAVE IMPROVED FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY

Outcome 1 focused on increasing rural women farmers' productive potential through increased access to, and control over, productive resources and assets, along with improved access to services which are critical to achieving food security and nutrition.

As a result of the activities implemented, an improvement in dietary diversity and food consumption patterns of rural women and their households was achieved in all countries. The measurement for this indicator varied across countries and the results achieved are summarised as follows: in Ethiopia, 72.5 percent of beneficiaries in targeted areas now eat 3 times a day compared to 63.75 percent before the intervention; in Kyrgyzstan, the Food Consumption Score² (FCS) increased from 4.5 to 6; in Liberia, 88 percent of rural women are consuming food from four or more food groups compared to 73.5 percent at the start of the programme; in Nepal, 97 percent of the total households supported improved their FCS compared to an initial value of 67.3 percent; in Niger, the FCS increased on average from 3.49 to 4.84; in Rwanda, important dietary changes relating to the consumption of nutrient rich foods for the last 3 to 5 years were reported by more than 75% of respondents.

Significant increases in agricultural production capacity across the participating countries were also achieved, with an average increase of 82 percent in the production of vegetables, rice, wheat, and fruits³. Climate smart agricultural techniques were applied across all countries, whilst local, safe, and diversified food production was encouraged which, in turn, contributed to the development of sustainable food systems at the local level. Achieving enhanced food security and nutrition proved to be key not just in contributing to the productive potential and economic empowerment of rural women, but also to building their resilience in managing social and economic shocks. This was evidenced in several countries during

¹ Calculated based on average household size.

² The Food Consumption Score (FCS) is a food security indicator that calculates households' dietary diversity and nutrient intake over a specific period of time.

³ 10% in Ethiopia, 53% in Guatemala, 40% in Kyrgyzstan, 67% in Liberia, 295% in Nepal, 31% in Niger, Rwanda reported an increase in production for 80% of the beneficiaries.

the COVID-19 pandemic, when food reserves contributed to reducing the impact of the crisis on household food security⁴

The improvement in food security and nutrition was also brought about through changes in social norms and behaviour relating to cultural practices in food consumption. Unequal food consumption practices for men, women, boys and girls are a contributing factor to the underlying causes of malnutrition in the majority of the participating countries. Change in these practices was achieved through working closely with women and their wider household members to enhance their knowledge on nutrition and to enable them to understand how traditional beliefs and practices negatively impact the nutritional intake, health and development of women and girls. The following beneficiary testimony provides an example from Niger:

Output 1.1: Rural women have increased access to resources, assets and services critical for their food and nutrition security.

Activities under this output were aimed at addressing the barriers faced by rural women in accessing resources, assets and services in relation to food production, and improving their control and ownership of resources that are critical for food security. These activities also involved strengthening women's knowledge and skills on climate smart agriculture techniques, farming technologies and nutrition. Planned targets were either achieved or overachieved for all activities. Collaboration with local government helped to increase access to additional households in Ethiopia, Guatemala, and Nepal.

Capacity building at the individual and group levels was one of the main activities carried out under this output, and the resulting knowledge and skills gained by women was key in contributing to the achievement of

enhanced food security and nutrition. In all countries, nutrition training, including on food storage and preparation, was provided to rural women and, for the most part, their household members. This resulted in the enhancement of knowledge and understanding of the nutritional needs of women and children and helped to achieve behavioural change in food consumption practices at the household level for the benefit of women and girls. Training was primarily implemented through the membership of women's groups and Producer Organisations (POs).

Nutrition training was also part of the programme's involvement in home grown school feeding initiatives⁵. In Nepal, for example, social behaviour change communication (SBCC)⁶ methodologies were used to sensitize 1,579 (772 women and 807 men) school feeding stakeholders on the importance of adequate, diversified, locally available and affordable ingredients for children, their parents, and communities. During nutrition sensitization with beneficiaries and household members, the implications of existing food taboos that discriminate against women were analysed, including storage, cooking and consumption habits. In some countries additional topics were included in the training, for example in Rwanda, where Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) was also included. In Niger, the Dimitra Club community listening model⁷, served as an entry point to help tackle strong traditional social and cultural norms.

The programme also focused on enhancing production of local crops and contributing to sustainable food systems. In Guatemala, for example, the majority of beneficiaries belonged to the Q'eqchi indigenous community and their traditional knowledge and culture was a key consideration in

programme implementation. The use of native species for nutritional intake was promoted and subsequently incorporated into household diets. This contributed to the improvement of family members' nutritional status through the high content of iron, protein, calcium, zinc and vitamins contained in the traditional plants. A 'Compendium of Native Plants and Recipes' book was also developed for the local community to further promote the sustainable and nutritional uptake of local plants within household diets.

Central to programme implementation was partnership with local government. This primarily involved working in close collaboration with Agricultural and Livestock offices. This included capacity building, joint implementation, monitoring of activities and facilitating access to extension services. A total of 40,000 people (91 percent women and 9 percent men) benefitted from capacity strengthening activities in agricultural production techniques, with a variety of participatory approaches being used to enhance the agricultural and livestock skills of the participants. For example, in Niger, 29 Farmer Field Schools (FFS)⁸ were installed and learning themes included climate smart practices such as soil reclamation techniques, the production and use of bio-pesticides, field preparation and weeding techniques. This knowledge was then multiplied at community level via the Dimitra Club model. In Rwanda, using the Farmer Field and Life School (FFLS) approach⁹, a total of 62 facilitators were trained and 70 FFLS groups were established. As a result, 5,537 beneficiaries (3,875 women and 1,662 men) acquired skills to select better quality seeds, monitor their crops, harvest on time, correctly store their production and reduce post-harvest losses. Farmer-to-Farmer methodology¹⁰ was used in Guatemala, where 1,372 beneficiaries (1,237 women and 135 men) received technical assistance in small animal



“Before the programme started its activities in our village, women were not allowed to eat eggs from the fifth month of their pregnancy. This is because people believed that eggs are responsible for child deformities and produce swollen areas on the child's head in the shape of an egg. Another belief was that eggs could make the child become a thief when he/she grows up.”

– Abou Yayaha, from the village of El kokia, in Maradi region, Niger

Photo: WFP Niger/2017

4 FAO, IFAD, UN Women, WFP and Mokoro, 2021. Accelerating Progress towards Rural Women's Economic Empowerment in Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Nepal, Niger and Rwanda from 2014 to 2020: Final Evaluation, Rome.

5 Guatemala, Liberia, Nepal, Niger and Rwanda.

6 SBCC is a combination of communication approaches, activities and tools used to positively influence behaviour to change discriminatory social norms.

7 Dimitra Clubs are groups of women, men and young people in both mixed and single sex groups who regularly come together to discuss challenges and bring about change in their communities. They act as coordination mechanism at village level and as a driver for women and girls to develop their leadership skills.

8 Farmer Field School (FFS) is an approach based on people-centred learning. Participatory methods are used to create an environment conducive to learning: the participants exchange knowledge and experience. Practical field exercises use direct observation, discussion and decision making and encourage learning-by-doing.

9 The Farmer Field and Life School facilitates and provides farmers with proximity practical farming and agriculture (aimed at improving productivity) and life skills (including on nutrition and hygiene).

10 Farmer to Farmer approach is a method of extension and social communication for rural development. It uses a series of participatory techniques, in which the farmer families are the protagonist.

husbandry and 3,241 beneficiaries (2,354 rural women and 887 men) gained knowledge on production techniques (corn cropping and kitchen gardening).

In order to support the practical implementation of the acquired skills and provide rural women with the means to increase production, inputs were also provided. This included seeds and fertilisers (Ethiopia, Guatemala, Liberia, Nepal, Niger and Rwanda) focusing on native species and high-yielding variety of seeds including wheat, maize, rice, vegetables and fruits. For example, in Liberia, 13,074 women and 1,688 young men beneficiaries were provided access to critical farming inputs such as high-quality seeds and tools including labour-saving technologies. In Nepal, a change to high yielding seed varieties led to increases in yield of 30 percent for mango, 33 percent for maize and 25 percent for rice. In all countries, equipment and labour-saving machines were distributed in order to support increased and improved agricultural production. This included greenhouses, macro tunnels, plastic crates and weighing machines, rice and cassava mills, corn thresher and power tillers. The distribution of such inputs was considered as essential to 'kick-start' the enhanced production of poor rural farmers. Once farmers have been able to develop their productivity and improve their entrepreneurship, such inputs are expected to be maintained and purchased by the beneficiaries themselves, beyond the programme implementation.

In Ethiopia, beneficiaries engaged with local administrative leaders with regards to the promotion of a green economy, in line with national policy, through a climate smart village initiative. Under the JP RWEE, a demonstration centre was established to demonstrate techniques to adapt to and mitigate against climate change, with the aim of ensuring food security through increased productivity and improving cooperative members' livelihoods through increased income. A total of 512 beneficiaries (212 women and 300 men) were trained on the use of climate smart agricultural inputs. In Rwanda, tree seedlings (avocados and mangoes) were distributed to 2,956 households as part of onsite nursery trainings on fruit tree grafting techniques and nursery bed management. The 60,457 trees produced through the learning process were distributed

to households within the community. Furthermore, some beneficiaries also started their own nurseries for selling fruit trees in the community.

Access to irrigation was also incorporated within this output in some countries. The primary purpose was to increase production from agricultural land, household kitchen gardens and livestock, but it also enabled the provision of safe drinking water to improve health and nutrition (poor hygiene being one of the main underlying causes of malnutrition). The programme supported the distribution of irrigation systems to 1,190 women in Guatemala, the implementation of irrigation methods for 3,731 beneficiaries (3,653 women and 78 men) in Kyrgyzstan, and the construction of household rainwater harvesting systems and training on collection techniques for 1,382 beneficiaries (923 women and 459 men) in Rwanda. Access to irrigation contributed to increases in production. In Nepal, irrigation equipment, including electric motor pump sets for shallow tube wells and drip irrigation, along with 131 shallow tube wells, were installed. As a result, 393 hectares of land belonging to a total of 1,310 rural women are now irrigated. Occasionally, tube-wells were also used by rural women for bathing and for washing clothes. This led to a significant reduction of rural women's work burden and enabled more of their time to be used for economic activities. In Niger, as a result of the installation of 7 standpipes and 9 pulleys in community wells, the time women beneficiaries spent on water collection reduced from 5 hours to 1.5 hours, as reported in focus group discussions.

Livestock and processing equipment to support livestock production, improve dietary diversity and increase production for income generation, was also distributed in a number of countries, accompanied by relevant training. In Ethiopia, for example, 100 milk processing equipment tools were distributed; in Guatemala, 1,372 beneficiaries (1,237 women and 135 men) received technical assistance and equipment to improve the production of pigs and chickens; in Kyrgyzstan, 300 beneficiaries (283 women and 17 men) received technical inputs and training for poultry farming; in Niger, 1,920 small ruminants and 105 tons of livestock feed were distributed and a livestock feed bank was established; in Rwanda, 974 households



Photo: WFP Nepal/ 2016

received pigs, 880 households received chickens and start-up feeds (totalling 2MT), and 10 women's cooperatives were supported to start beekeeping businesses. As a result, women were able to engage in more highly productive businesses for the benefit of their household food security and nutrition, as well as to support income generation.

Output 1.2: Rural women have greater capacity to enhance and control local food

Food reserves are an important asset for household food security. They contribute to the reduction of food losses and provide adequate storage for surplus for household use and income generation. Rural women's capacity in food production, processing, and storage was enhanced by using innovative, productive and environmentally acceptable technologies. For example, in Niger, Training of Trainers (ToT) sessions on food storage and conservation techniques were held for community trainers (members of POs and Dimitra Clubs, government agricultural technicians and NGO implementing partners). The ToT strengthened local expertise and, as a result, the potential quality of technical services in the area, for the benefit of the wider population. In Guatemala, a 28.5 percent reduction in post-harvest losses was reported as a result of the implementation of improved post-harvest practices following training (drying grain and use of plastic silos). In Ethiopia, 25 percent of women in Oromia and 5 percent of women in Afar started to apply improved production techniques on post-harvest technologies, horticulture development, and improved crop production (production, particularly in Afar, was affected by natural disaster and political instability in the final years of the programme). In Niger, as part of post-harvest activities, rural women gathered and stored cereal stocks which were resold during the lean season. In Rwanda, maize drying sheds were provided to three cooperatives to strengthen their post-harvest handling and to preserve the quality of the maize and mitigate post-harvest losses. In Kyrgyzstan, 5 mini-processing workshops were launched to reduce post-harvest losses and contribute to value chain development. All of these activities enabled greater availability of food reserves.

In addition to training, infrastructure and equipment for storage and processing was installed. In Liberia, 7 women-led community

grain reserves were constructed and equipped with motorized cassava and rice graters; in Niger, a cereal storage warehouse with a capacity of 25 tons was constructed for the Women's Union, composed of 11 grassroots POs, and kits for processing agricultural products were distributed in 20 villages. In Rwanda, 2,083 households were able to establish reserves as a result of the provision of hermetic storage bags and tarpaulins. In addition, 2 cooperatives were provided with milling machines for maize and cassava/sorghum transformation. In Nepal, the construction of a storage centre resulted not only in improved income and access to food but also in changes in the perceptions of women's roles. A women-led construction management committee was created to lead the construction of the centre (construction is a task in which women are not traditionally able to participate). Women both successfully managed the project and worked as labourers, challenging stereotypes and showing that, with a conducive environment in place, women can take on work that is traditionally considered 'male only'. In all of the countries referenced above, grain reserves proved to be a valuable asset during the COVID-19 pandemic and assisted women in accessing food reserves and generating income.

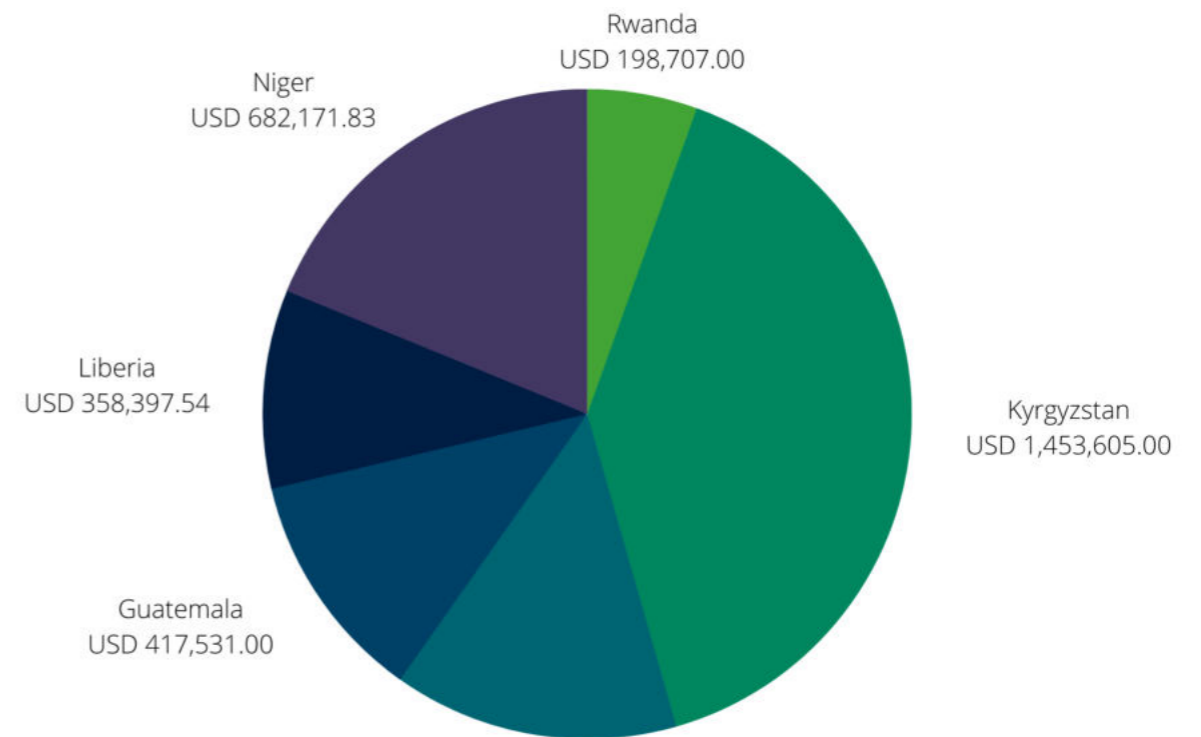
OUTCOME 2: RURAL WOMEN HAVE INCREASED INCOME TO SECURE THEIR LIVELIHOODS AND CREATE WEALTH

Rural women lack access to decent work opportunities and are often dependent on a single source of seasonal on-farm based income, which can be highly vulnerable to shock. Their access to markets is limited by several factors, stemming from systemic constraints and discriminatory social norms. Outcome 2 focused on the development of rural women's entrepreneurship, supporting women's role in value chains, enhancing their income opportunities and promoting linkages to higher value markets. As a result, substantial increases in the incomes of rural women were achieved, supporting the development of their economic autonomy and their increased role in household decision making relating to finance. The results achieved under Outcome 1 also contributed to increased income for rural women as a result of improved production techniques, increased levels and quality of production, and subsequent increased sales of produce.

Over the course of the programme and despite the economic shock caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, women generated more than US\$ 3,600,000 from sales at individual and group levels. This represented an over-achievement of the planned targets in all countries and can be summarised as follows:

The variance amongst countries can be explained by the differing country contexts, including beneficiary numbers, food prices and the cost of living.

This was also supported by formally registering women's groups, or through the formation of POs, composed of multiple women's groups. Being part of a formal cooperative or PO provides rural women with previously inaccessible opportunities and services from government, microfinance institutions and other service providers. In the majority of countries, the programme supported women's groups that were part of existing structures. For example, in

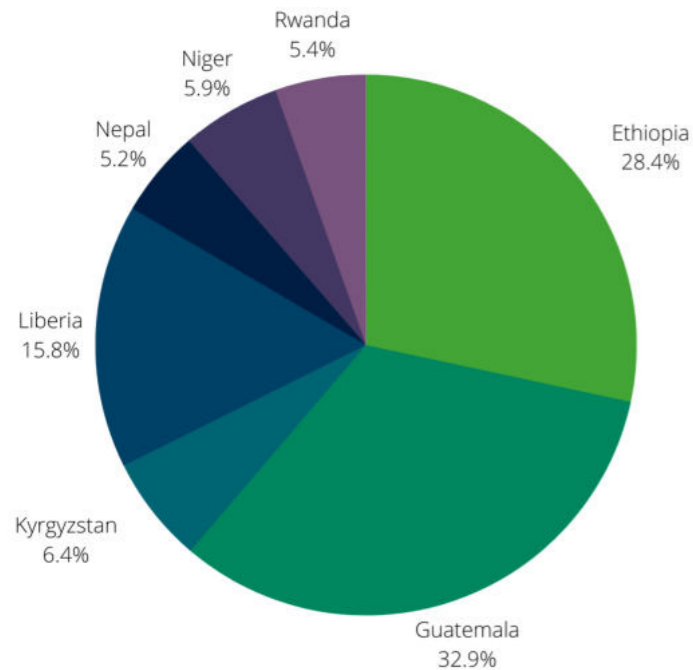


Over the programme duration, rural women achieved greater market access, which was critical for providing them with opportunities to generate income and expand the scope of their businesses. Improved access to technology also helped rural women to become more competitive in local markets. Access to credit is critical to increasing the economic potential of rural women. In all JP RWEE participating countries it acts as a significant barrier to the economic empowerment of rural women, due to systemic challenges (such as a lack of women's land ownership) and discriminatory social norms. The programme facilitated access to credit primarily through informal savings and lending groups which, in turn, created opportunities for women to access formal credit as their incomes and savings increased through business development.

Ethiopia, women's Rural Savings and Credit Cooperatives (RUSACCOs) were supported and strengthened, in close collaboration with local government. Where no such structures existed, or where existing groups were very weak, such as in Rwanda, the creation of new groups was supported, in collaboration with local actors. In addition to facilitating opportunities for entrepreneurship, access to credit also enabled women to demonstrate resilience to economic shocks and crises, including natural disasters caused by climate change and the COVID-19 global pandemic. Women were successful in generating savings which were used during the crises, either for essential household expenditure or to support the purchase of inputs (for example, to purchase material for product diversification). During the reporting period, savings and loan schemes in the seven countries mobilised

more than US\$ 1,900,000, as detailed below:

Community savings and credit groups constitute an informal microfinance modality, with revolving fund schemes being used to lend money or facilitate small investments.



According to the programme's final evaluation¹¹, the savings groups supported by the JP RWEE served as a powerful transformative element in the programme with a strong likelihood of being sustained beyond the programme duration. In addition to enhancing business skills and creating new opportunities for income generation, the groups were found to have generated social capital for rural women. They also played a crucial role in enabling better coping strategies during the COVID-19 pandemic. The following beneficiary testimony provides an example of the multiple benefits of group membership.

Output 2.1: Rural women have enhanced entrepreneurship skills and value chains to access markets for their products

Capacity building of rural women in entrepreneurship was carried out in all countries under this outcome. More than 42,000 women's group members received coaching and training on several topics including business development,

financial literacy, loan management, cooperative management, basic business skills, entrepreneurship, revolving fund management, integrated pest management and vegetable market promotion.

As a result of these trainings, several businesses were developed. For example, in Ethiopia, pastoralist women developed milk processing businesses following training and provision of equipment. As a result of the use of labour-saving technologies, women reduced their production time by over 90 percent and substantially increased their production of good quality milk. This enabled them to build up a regular and reliable customer base in the local area, including with local businesses and government offices. Furthermore, JP RWEE committee members and other stakeholders conducted workshops and consultative sessions with local government staff and rural women on how to enhance Business Development Services (BDS). As a result, representatives of the Woreda (district) administration agreed to ensure adequate and efficient delivery of BDS for the women. In Rwanda, the use of greenhouses resulted in the year-round production of tomatoes which led to tomato production being doubled and provided women with increased income generation opportunities. Access to larger and sustainable markets was facilitated in a number of countries, including through collaboration with government on home-grown school feeding programmes. Under this scheme, the programme facilitated the establishment of contracts between schools and women's farmers' cooperatives to supply agricultural produce for healthy and nutritious school meals. This guaranteed access to a specific market for over 6,000 rural women on a regular basis, supporting them to develop their businesses and expand their supply chains. Access to a wider and more reliable market provided women with the opportunity to become established as small business entrepreneurs and develop their potential to grow further and expand their market base. This activity also had the added value of supplying children at school with nutritious, locally produced food, which encourages



“ There are many benefits we have had of participating in the savings group. We have learned how to manage our money better and to plan what to do with our income. For example, we want our daughters to study so they have a profession, not like us; we didn't have any education. We strive so our family has better health and nutrition. We have learned to care about ourselves, thanks to the training we received we know more about our sexuality, our rights, and the nutrition we must have.”

– Community group participant, Guatemala

Photo: WFP Guatemala/2020

11 FAO, IFAD, UN Women, WFP and Mokoro, 2021. Accelerating Progress towards Rural Women's Economic Empowerment in Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Nepal, Niger and Rwanda from 2014 to 2020: Final Evaluation, Rome.

16 FAO, IFAD, UN Women, WFP and Mokoro, 2021. Accelerating Progress towards Rural Women's Economic Empowerment in Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Nepal, Niger and Rwanda from 2014 to 2020: Final Evaluation, Rome.

school attendance of girls and boys, and of training local stakeholders (e.g., family members, local government, school staff) in nutrition. In Liberia, the JP RWEE linked 1,966 women beneficiaries to markets within the framework of WFP's P4P programme¹² and other market opportunities. This included access to two market stalls in the Margibi and Maryland counties and the linkage of JP RWEE producers with local traders, restaurants, hotels, and rice and cassava value chains. A total of 10 organisations (497 women) in Guatemala, 32 cooperatives (4,292 women and 3,911 men) in Niger, 56 groups and 4 cooperatives (950 women) in Nepal, and 4 cooperatives (532 women) in Rwanda were involved in the production and supply of home grown produce for school meals.

Another strategy used for enhancing market access was to link women to nationwide markets through participation in national exhibitions and bazaars, as was the case in Ethiopia and Kyrgyzstan. This gave women access to buyers beyond the local context which provided greater opportunity for developing their businesses to produce at scale and diversify their customer base. Further efforts to increase women's cooperatives' access to markets included training on developing buyer linkage mechanisms, and facilitating workshops for local vendors, retailers, and wholesalers. In Nepal, 2,003 rural women from 82 rural women's cooperatives enhanced their entrepreneurship skills and engaged in value chains to access markets for their products. Through a vegetable market promotion workshop, rural women in Nepal established sustainable marketing linkages with vegetable collectors, wholesalers, retailers, and vendors, enhancing their entrepreneurship skills. The workshop also served to improve the gender awareness of the retailers and vendors. In Guatemala, rural women were trained on innovative techniques for weaving, labelling and packaging products, which are now sold through established and well-known companies and in pharmacies throughout the country, representing a significant market expansion for indigenous rural women.

An innovative example of learning linked to rural development was in Guatemala, where in partnership with the Barefoot College in India, the JP RWEE supported two rural

women to be trained in solar energy studies in India, where they learned how to install and maintain solar panels. Upon return to their communities, where there was no electricity supply, the women installed solar systems in 100 homes. As testified by one of the women who was trained,

Output 2.2: Rural women have increased access to decent wage employment opportunities

“Even though many people told me I couldn't do it, because technology is for men, not women, I knew I could. [The JP RWEE] taught me that women can do much more than just housework. And now my community knows that and so do my daughters.”

Income diversification also served as a mechanism for increasing access to employment and decent wage opportunities. Additionally, there was evidence of it having contributed to building the resilience of rural women during crisis, enabling beneficiaries to draw on a wider number of income sources at a time when levels of income from a single income source were reduced due to natural disasters or economic shocks. More than 19,000 beneficiaries (3,609 in Ethiopia; 1,586 in Guatemala; 805 in Kyrgyzstan; 3,202 in Liberia; 2,034 in Nepal; 1,720 in Niger; and 3,670 in Rwanda) initiated or strengthened self-employment and income-generating activities in both the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors.

In Liberia, a partnership with the private sector mobile phone company Orange Liberia facilitated access to decent work and secure income for 70 women who were trained, equipped with infrastructure and equipment, including kiosks and phones, and employed as Orange Mobile Money Agents. This significantly improved their quality of life. As stated by one beneficiary¹³,

In Kyrgyzstan, 172 self-help groups implemented innovative business plans



and set up micro- enterprises including vermicompost production (a nutrient rich, organic fertiliser used for sustainable organic farming and produced by the use of worms in the decomposition process); apricot processing, dairy production and fruit drying. In Guatemala, women were able to adapt their micro-enterprises to diversify their products during the COVID-19 pandemic. Women weavers started producing face masks for sale in the local community whilst women who were involved in shampoo production expanded their business to include antibacterial hand soap using natural plants. In Niger, 1,720 women initiated small business activities, often in the agri-food sector (e.g., processing peanuts into oil, selling fritters and cooked dishes). In Nepal, 2,034 rural women's households benefitted from short-term wage-earning opportunities in the form of conditional cash transfers for participating in the construction of harvest storage facilities as part of the programme under WFP's Food for Assets (FFA) modality. This cash income was used to meet basic needs and to invest in other income generation activities, such as goat and poultry raising and vegetable farming. In the process, women acquired skills in construction and management.

Examples of innovative ways of increasing women's market access included in Kyrgyzstan, where 1,159 women marketed their businesses and products through a Buy from Women E-Platform. This provided a national platform for women entrepreneurs to enhance their access to potential investors and buyers. In Guatemala, the JP RWEE supported the use of the AgriUp platform by rural women. Through instant phone messages, this SMS and cellular application system provides information on weather conditions and product prices in the market and responds to questions about crop production. In Rwanda, a working relationship was established between four JP RWEE supported cooperatives and Africa Improved Foods (AIF), a public private partnership aimed at increasing access to nutritious foods in the region, and East Africa Exchange (EAX), a regional food commodities trader. As a result, JP RWEE-supported groups sold grain to these formal groups, allowing farmers to earn significant premiums for producing quality maize compared to local market prices, at which they previously sold.

Also in Kyrgyzstan, the Business Action Learning Innovation (BALI) tool¹⁴ was piloted in 2020-2021 and reached 413 women, as well as indirectly benefitting their household members. The tool enabled women to develop their business ideas and prepare effective business implementation plans. According to the final GALS/BALI assessment, women stated that they had received new knowledge and skills, on innovative business, marketing and advertising, income generation and savings, innovative ideas in farming and new techniques in the cultivation of crops and livestock. Skills were also acquired in topics such the non-standard use of felt and production of various types of felt products, the use of leaves as a natural fertiliser, running baking and dumpling factories, modern vegetable processing techniques, drip irrigation systems, greenhouse installation and improved animal husbandry. Another essential impact mentioned by women is that BALI taught women to detail their dreams and ideas, which led to preparing clear plans for implementing those ideas. GALS/BALI was found to have enabled women to apply a more rational approach in the implementation

¹² WFP's initiative to build functional and sustainable grain market structures and connect 6,000 smallholder farmers to markets.

¹³ Liberia Final Report.

¹⁴ BALI is a follow-on methodology for community champions trained under the GALS methodologies. It aims to enable women from all backgrounds to develop and implement attainable business and marketing plans based on their specific opportunities and challenges.

of different activities.

OUTCOME 3: RURAL WOMEN HAVE ENHANCED LEADERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION IN THEIR COMMUNITIES AND IN RURAL INSTITUTIONS, AND IN SHAPING LAWS, POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES.

Actions under this outcome worked to promote and strengthen the participation of women in rural communities and enhance their leadership in local structures. Across the participating countries, there was an increase in women's leadership within POs, in some countries women were elected to local councils and, in all countries, rural women were able to voice their needs and input into local development planning processes. In Kyrgyzstan, 44 beneficiaries (41 women and 3 men) were elected to rural councils; in Guatemala, 42 women beneficiaries were elected to councils, and in Niger, 26 percent of beneficiaries elected in rural councils were women. In Rwanda, 100 beneficiaries (79 women and 21 men) participated in local governance structures (village, cell and sector leadership structures) and in National Women's Council (NWC) leadership structures. In Nepal and Ethiopia, respectively, 64.7 and 80 percent of women took on leadership positions in their cooperatives. The number of women elected serves as an important indicator for measuring the increased participation of women in decision making bodies and helped to ensure that the needs and perspectives of women and girls were considered in development planning. In Liberia and Niger, 1,162 and 32 women respectively, became members of land committees. Limited access to land is one of the main challenges faced by rural women and it has multiple consequences, including preventing access to credit.

Women's enhanced participation and leadership was also achieved by bringing about transformative change through addressing discriminatory social norms, which are one of the principle causes of gender inequality and represent a major barrier to women's economic empowerment. The final evaluation found that gender transformative

approaches used by the JP RWEE led to strong transformative effects for women. There was clear evidence of change at both the household and community levels. This change was achieved through the implementation of gender transformative methodologies including community conversations, Dimitra listening clubs, and the Gender Action Learning System¹⁵ (GALS). As evidenced in the final evaluation, men and women reported shifts in social norms, such as women being allowed to work outside homes, men and women sharing household chores and women's increased status in the community¹⁶. In Nepal, the GALS qualitative assessment revealed that rural women, trained in GALS by the programme, were more empowered in terms of respect among household members and access to, and decision making on, credit and mobility than women who had not been trained in GALS. The Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) end-line surveys in Kyrgyzstan and Nepal also indicated that, amongst people who participated in GALS, there was an improvement in women's and men's empowerment and collective agency. The final evaluation found that women's agency increased due to a combination of capacity strengthening, awareness raising and increased economic autonomy.

Women's leadership of POs and groups was promoted as a strategy throughout the implementation of the JP RWEE and is now well established in all countries. As a result, on average, 77 percent¹⁷ of POs participating in the programme are led by women. This was achieved through a variety of measures including the adoption of gender sensitive policies (Guatemala and Kyrgyzstan) and quotas (Niger and Rwanda) by PO boards, and through providing training on leadership to members.

Finally, the experiences reported at country level during the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated evidence of women's participation and leadership within households and communities in multiple countries. Country examples showed that rural women played a central role in the response

to the pandemic both at household and community level, and successfully engaged with decisions makers. For example, in Nepal, 1,180 women engaged directly in dialogue with government officials ensuring that their needs were taken into account in local response plans. In Kyrgyzstan, 10 community initiatives were implemented in response to the COVID-19 outbreak with support from the programme's women leaders.

Output 3.1: Rural women, including young women, have enhanced confidence and leadership skills to participate in local governance.

Many of the rural women participating in the programme lacked basic skills in reading and writing, which hindered efforts to realise their economic empowerment. Therefore, in some of the participating countries, literacy and numeracy training was provided for women in order to equip them with the basic skills necessary for entrepreneurship. In Liberia, a total of 14,982 rural women beneficiaries participated in literacy and numeracy classes and, as a result, they were able to record business transactions, carry out bookkeeping and have better access to services and information. In Guatemala, the JP RWEE established a partnership with the National Literacy Committee (CONALFA) in which 904 women acquired literacy skills. In Niger, a total of 2,075 beneficiaries (1,263 women and 812 men) learned to read and write through two complementary literacy approaches: functional literacy and community-based literacy. In Ethiopia, 1,827 beneficiaries from Oromia and 79 from Afar were enrolled in the Functional Adult Literacy (FAL) programme to improve their reading and writing.

Women's election to local councils and governance bodies was supported in a number of countries and was particularly successful in Kyrgyzstan, where the JP RWEE promoted comprehensive advocacy initiatives in close partnership with the Central Election Committee and the UNDP/UN Women Kyrgyzstan Electoral Support Programme. This led to both increased interest from women to participate in elections and to positive changes in public perceptions regarding women's political participation. A total of

235 local leaders enhanced their capacities to run for elections, 19 percent of whom (41 women and 3 men) became deputies of local councils (23 in 2016 and 21 in 2021). As part of this initiative, the JP RWEE organized a series of dialogues with 300 women, with 65 percent of them subsequently deciding to register as candidates in the local elections. Many of them stated that they had never previously thought of registering as candidates, as they used to believe that only prominent people (mainly men) could do so. In Guatemala, women in the programme did not initially possess the necessary documentation required for voting. In response, a training on electoral rights was organized for 324 women, with the aim of increasing their participation in exercising their right to vote and raising their interest in political issues affecting their communities.

Another innovative initiative to promote women's participation was implemented in Nepal, where restrictions to movement during the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in programming being adapted for the use of community radio to reach rural women. As a result, 483¹⁸ rural women were able to put forward their concerns and priorities with their local leaders and officials through an interactive voice response (IVR)¹⁹ system and participated in the Query for My Leader (QFL) radio campaign. The queries of the rural women were addressed by locally elected leaders through the live radio programmes. The main issues raised were related to lack of irrigation, seeds and fertilisers, COVID-19 relief provisions and local level service delivery. Encouraging responses from the local leaders during the QFL included a commitment to allocate an additional budget for irrigation from the Mayor of Gujara.

Output 3.2: Rural women have greater organisational capacities to form, sustain and participate into POs, cooperatives and unions.

As outlined above, women's groups were the main entry point for the programme, and one of the main means through which they were empowered. The formalisation of different types of women's groups allowed rural women to access a greater range of

15 GALS is a community-led empowerment methodology that uses principles of inclusion and encourages gender-transformative changes and equitable gender relations at household level by challenging discriminatory social norms, attitudes, and behaviours.

16 FAO, IFAD, UN Women, WFP and Mokoro, 2021. Accelerating Progress towards Rural Women's Economic Empowerment in Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Nepal, Niger and Rwanda from 2014 to 2020: Final Evaluation, Rome.

17 Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Nepal, Niger and Rwanda.

18 Data collected through IVR.

19 The IVR is an automated platform which allows the callers to call in (toll free) and record their feedback for the radio program, and to put forward their priorities and concerns to be shared with the representatives of their local government units by recording their audio.



Photo: WFP Liberia / 2015

services which were previously inaccessible for most of them, including formal credit, extension services, information and market opportunities. Formalisation of women's groups into registered groups took place as follows: in Ethiopia, the JP RWEE worked with 4,140 beneficiaries from 21 government recognised cooperatives; in Guatemala, 2,414 beneficiaries (2,002 women and 394 men) joined 73 formally registered POs; in Kyrgyzstan, 1,715 beneficiaries from 223 SHGs joined 5 formally registered POs; in Liberia, 325 women from 25 informal women's groups joined 13 registered POs; in Nepal, 48 rural women's groups joined 5 cooperatives; in Niger, 345 women's groups and 3 women's groups unions joined registered POs and 19 POs were formalised and in Rwanda, 9 cooperatives were legally registered.

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

Connecting women to policy dialogues and advocacy processes further enhanced their participation in rural development processes. In Liberia, with the aim of supporting rural women's networking, information exchange and participation in local and national policy processes was facilitated. Four advocacy platforms²⁰ were strengthened, and a rural women's conference (involving 300 participants) and 4 general assemblies (320 participants) were organised. Participants included government institutions, civil society organisations and rural women from the targeted programme areas. The outcomes of these processes included increased understanding of the need for rural women's representation, and of their rights and responsibilities. There was a strengthened network of women cross-border traders and increased awareness amongst policymakers on the contributions of, and challenges faced, by these women and the opportunities for involving them in regional policies and programmes for peacebuilding and economic growth.

In Kyrgyzstan, 5,500 rural women enhanced their capacity for participating and influencing policy lobbying activities at local and national levels. A total of 52 regional and

national activities, including International Women's Day, International Rural Women's Day, consultations and conferences, supported by the JP RWEE resulted in rural women improving their leadership skills, their awareness of national gender policies, and their awareness of economic, political, sexual, and reproductive rights. In 2020-2021, 384 beneficiaries (365 women, including young women, and 19 men) provided their recommendations into the process of developing the National Gender Equality Strategy (NGES) for 2021-2030 and the National Action Plan (NAP) 2021-2023 at a national consultation and at five regional consultations.

In Ethiopia, 4 regional dialogues were conducted, including a forum on Gender and Agricultural Mechanization and a forum on Free Legal Provision for Rural Women. Also in Ethiopia, JP RWEE beneficiaries are now represented in different formal and informal community leadership positions, such as representatives of the Women and Peace Affairs bureau at Kebele level. Through their representatives, beneficiaries have successfully channelled and voiced their requests for support to the district administrators on several occasions. For instance, the local government in Oromia provided 1.5 hectares of land for joint farming activities to a cooperative with 402 female members as a result of their lobbying efforts.

Output 3.4: Rural women, including young women, have enhanced awareness on their rights in a more supportive community/ local environment.

To raise awareness on women's rights and transform discriminatory gender social norms, a number of methodologies were used at household and community level as follows: (i) GALS (Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal and Rwanda); (ii) Dimitra listening clubs (Niger); and (iii) community conversations (Ethiopia and Liberia). This involved almost 20,000 beneficiaries (855 in Ethiopia, 289 in Guatemala, 11,634 in Kyrgyzstan, 900 in Liberia, 1,569 in Nepal, 3,600 in Niger and 360 in Rwanda). Furthermore, many of the methodologies were further disseminated by community members, therefore achieving a much greater reach. Engaging men and

boys helped to garner their support and support a process of transformative change, which affected many aspects of women's empowerment, including participation and decision making relating to household income, sharing of domestic work, and supporting women to participate in local structures and development processes.

The Kyrgyzstan GALS/BALI assessment²¹ identified that GALS acted as a development accelerator, as it contributed to changing traditional practices on farming and housekeeping and helped beneficiaries in making better use of the technical trainings provided by the JP RWEE. As a result, there was a fairer workload distribution within the households and joint discussions and decision making among family members improved. The WEAI end-line survey found that women from villages where both GALS and BALI methodologies were used showed the largest empowerment effects, with improvements also in autonomy in income and self-efficacy²².

In Niger, 120 Dimitra Clubs were established under the JP RWEE. Each club developed a village action plan based on identified community interests and challenges²³. These plans were then implemented and discussed during the clubs' weekly meetings. Dimitra club activities brought about changes in discriminatory cultural practices, such as women being allowed to speak in public meetings, widows having the right to get married again and more equal food consumption practices. Working with the wider community, including political and religious leaders, strengthened social cohesion, enabled a much deeper understanding of how unequal gender norms affect the nutrition of women and children, and resulted in the development of a community vision.

OUTCOME 4: A MORE GENDER RESPONSIVE POLICY ENVIRONMENT IS SECURED FOR THE ECONOMIC

EMPOWERMENT OF RURAL WOMEN.

This outcome involved working with national governments to develop more gender responsive policies and strategies for rural women. Across the participating countries, the JP RWEE teams supported Ministries with technical guidance and input into key policy processes. This support was primarily in relation to advancing gender equality within the agricultural sector through the mainstreaming of gender into rural development strategies and policies.

In Ethiopia, the JP RWEE advocated for Land Compensation Regulation and succeeded in ensuring the incorporation of a gender sensitivity provision within the regulation. Also in Ethiopia, the programme supported the Ministry of Agriculture to incorporate gender related targets into their policies and plans and to incorporate gender mainstreaming into their strategies. This included a gender mainstreaming training manual within the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA); guidelines on unpaid care work for government stakeholders and a gender sensitive cooperative strengthening manual for the Federal Cooperatives Agency (FCA). In Guatemala, the JP RWEE worked closely in providing guidance to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA) in the development of its first policy for Gender Equality and its associated ten-year strategy; in Kyrgyzstan, the NGES 2021-2030 was supported; in Liberia, the JP RWEE provided technical support on gender equality with regards to the development of the Liberia Land Rights Act, which was signed into law in 2018. In Nepal, the programme supported the MOA in the development and implementation of a Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) strategy. In Niger, the JP RWEE gave technical support to develop and review the Land Policy, National Gender Policy and National Nutrition security policy by ensuring that gender was better reflected in the policies' formulations. In Rwanda, the creation of a more gender responsive policy environment was supported by the development and review of the new Gender and Youth Mainstreaming Strategy in Agriculture, the National Gender Policy, the Law on Prevention of Gender Based Violence,

20 Liberia National Rural Women Structure, Association of Women in Cross Border Trade, Liberia Marketing Association, and the National Peace Hut Women of Liberia.

21 End-line assessment report, UCA – University of Central Asia, 2021.

22 Refer to section Evaluation, Best Practices and Lessons Learned

23 Issues included food security and nutrition, climate change, disaster risk reduction, early marriage, girls schooling etc.

and the Law on Matrimonial Regimes and Succession on Property.

Policy implementation at ground level was also supported, particularly in relation to budgeting and planning processes. In Kyrgyzstan, 35 local development plans and budgets were developed with the inclusion of a budget for gender sensitive activities. In Nepal, 38.65 percent of the federal government budget in 2018-2019 was allocated to programmes benefitting rural women; in Niger, 26.5 percent of municipal budgets were allocated to programmes for rural women's empowerment.

The overall achievement of Outcome 4 was found by the final evaluation of the programme to be lower compared to the other programme outcomes. The main reason for this was that policy reforms and enforcement of rural women's rights are complex to implement, and results under this outcome take longer to be visible and effective compared to other initiatives²⁴.

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.

The programme worked in all countries to strengthen the capacity of governments in developing and implementing gender sensitive policies and to increase their technical skills in gender mainstreaming. As a result, more than 5,800 civil servants participated in awareness raising events and training during the course of the programme. In Niger, training sessions on gender-responsive planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation were conducted with 97 senior staff (40 women and 47 men) and 45 technicians from the decentralized technical services (including NGO staff). In Rwanda, 799 (502 women and 297 men) local government staff increased their capacity on gender-responsive planning. In Liberia, training on gender responsive budgeting was provided to 12 County Coordinators, 12 Extension Officers from the MOA, and 50 gender focal points and budget officers (27 women and 23 men) from several different ministries. In Ethiopia, 1,434 (832 women and 602 men) experts at regional and district level enhanced their

knowledge and skills to respond to the needs of women beneficiaries through workshops on gender mainstreaming and gender responsive budgeting, gender and leadership, and revolving fund management. In Guatemala, 2,812 civil servants (2,530 women and 282 men) strengthened their capacity to improve the gender-sensitive public policy environment for rural women. In Kyrgyzstan, 521 local and national policy makers (394 women and 127 men) participated in learning and advocacy events on rural women's empowerment, which resulted in a new and more gender-responsive practice of holding consultative discussions and elaborating decisions and recommendations. In Nepal, 101 government officials (49 women and 52 men) enhanced their knowledge of gender equality and social inclusion, and gender responsive planning and budgeting through a series of workshops.

Direct support to specialized ministries and other policy makers was given with regards to developing, reviewing, and implementing gender responsive strategies and laws. In Ethiopia, the JP RWEE, in cooperation with the Ministry of Urban Development and Construction and the Ethiopian Women's Land Rights Task Force (EWLRTF), advocated for the integration of legal provisions that protect the interests of women and vulnerable groups. These provisions included women's right to be informed and to access compensation for land ownership issues, the mandatory inclusion of women and vulnerable groups in consultative meetings, and the need for women to access free support and pro bono services in relation to land access. In Guatemala, the programme worked with the gender unit of the MAGA in the implementation of the Institutional Policy for Gender Equality and its Strategy 2014-2023, the first such strategy in the Ministry. In addition, a National Coalition for Women's Economic Empowerment was created to support women in increasing their livelihoods through business, entrepreneurship, and employment. This is a multi-sectoral partnership that seeks to support women to achieve financial inclusion and access to credit and to promote dialogue with the private sector to achieve the productive inclusion of rural women. This was the

first time that such a coalition had been created and it enabled the issue of women's economic empowerment to have much greater prominence on the public agenda. In Kyrgyzstan, the JP RWEE participated in the process of developing a new NGES 2021-2030 by providing technical guidance on the inclusion of rural women's priorities. In Liberia, the JP RWEE supported the mid-term review of the National Gender Policy, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection. The JP RWEE was also a stakeholder in the development of the Land Rights Act in Liberia. In Niger, the programme contributed by providing technical guidance to the review of the national nutrition security policy from a gender perspective, the development of the Land Policy adopted in 2021, and the revision and implementation of the National Gender Policy and the National Strategy for Women's Economic Empowerment. In Nepal, the GESI strategy for the Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS) was developed with technical and financial support from the JP RWEE. Finally, in Rwanda, participating agencies worked with various government bodies through policy dialogues on the National Agriculture Policy (NAP) and its nexus with gender equality and the Malabo Declaration.

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

Under the JP RWEE, the pro-WEAI²⁵ was piloted in Ethiopia, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, and Niger. WEAI is a tool that measures women's empowerment through twelve indicators mapped against three domains: (i) instrumental agency (ii) intrinsic agency (iii) collective agency.

In Liberia, with the aim of supporting government in the generation of evidence-based studies to inform policy development, the JP RWEE, in partnership with the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS), and in collaboration with the MOA and the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, conducted the WEAI survey with rural households to determine the agriculture index in 3 targeted counties. The surveys enabled the JP RWEE and the government to analyse specific geographical areas to assist in informing potential



Photo: WFP Niger/ 2020

24 FAO, IFAD, UN Women, WFP and Mokoro, 2021. Accelerating Progress towards Rural Women's Economic Empowerment in Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Nepal, Niger and Rwanda from 2014 to 2020: Final Evaluation, Rome.

25 Refer to section Evaluation, Best Practices and Lessons Learned

future women's economic empowerment programming and government policy/planning.

In Rwanda, the JP RWEE supported the Ministry of Agriculture (MINAGRI) to conduct a WEAI survey, which enabled the government and partners to have evidence-based data to be better able to track gender transformation within the agricultural sector. The findings of the WEAI end-line surveys conducted in Guatemala, Nepal and Niger are contained below²⁶.

Other tools and methodologies were also used during JP RWEE implementation. For example, in Guatemala, the Gender and Rural Advisory Services Assessment Tool (GRAST), a tool developed by FAO, was piloted to help identify, from a gender perspective, areas of rural advisory services provision that were working well and those that needed improvement. The tool took into consideration the interactions between the enabling policy environment, the policies' institutional mechanisms, the organisational culture of the service providers, staff members' capacities and attitudes and the experience of service users.

Output 4.3: An enabling environment is promoted to reflect rural women's priorities in regional policy processes.

In Niger, the JP RWEE provided technical support to the government in the preparation of the 62nd and 63rd sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). The delegation of Niger prepared several presentations and attended panel discussions, including on labour saving technologies and income generation. Women beneficiaries in Niger also participated in the African Union Women peace and security mechanism. In Rwanda, 1,533 women participated in dialogues on agriculture, gender, rural development, and land management. In Kyrgyzstan, the JP RWEE contributed to the government's initiative to develop the "Batken Region Development Programme for 2021-2035" by introducing innovative approaches to open dialogues in order to ensure the genuine

participation and meaningful consideration of the experience and opinions of rural women and men of the Batken region. This initiative allowed key ministries to integrate GEWE considerations into the regional development programme based on broad participation and inclusiveness of all social groups. In Ethiopia, the JP RWEE established the National Network for Gender Equality in Agriculture, an information, learning, and experience sharing forum composed of various stakeholders, including government, civil society and donors. The aim of the platform, which meets monthly, is to contribute to ensuring gender responsive agriculture sector policies, strategies, and programmes, using evidence-based advocacy. Another important network is the EWLRTF, the main aim of which is to advocate, influence and share information about women's land rights in Ethiopia. In Guatemala, the board of directors of the rural women's organisations participated in the Regional Forum on Financial Inclusion, aimed at the promotion of a more inclusive financial system.

In Ethiopia, the JP RWEE carried out the following: i. policy briefs on gender and agricultural mechanization²⁷, highlighting the need for enhanced gender responsiveness in agriculture mechanization policy. ii. Research on "Costing the Gender Gap in Agricultural Productivity in Ethiopia"²⁸ identified the costs Ethiopia incurs as a result of the existing gender gap in the agriculture sector. iii. in 2021, an assessment was conducted with the aim of understanding the 'Actual Benefit of Land Registration and Certification for Women: Beyond the Numbers'.

In Liberia, the JP RWEE carried out analysis on the following: i. Women and Climate Resilient Agriculture²⁹; ii. The Status of Women in Cross Border Trade³⁰ - key recommendations included the need to work closely with the cross-border traders' associations to enhance their voice decision making processes and policy influence and to provide adequate infrastructure to facilitate cross border trade. iii. The Status of Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs)³¹ - key recommendations

included to ensure that the Central Bank of Liberia works with commercial banks to recognize VSLAs as valid institutions to receive formal loans and that the LISGIS should ensure the collection of sex disaggregated data as relates to VSLAs.

In Rwanda, two studies 'Women's Access to Labour Saving Technologies' and a Gender-based Analysis of the Bean Value Chain were conducted in 2020. The findings of the analysis have been useful in informing and guiding gender transformative programmatic interventions in the bean value chain in the country. The findings related to the study on labour saving technologies have directly contributed to a UN project (outside the JP RWEE programme) to promote formal financial linkages between women farmers and micro-finance institutions financing such technology.

QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT

The JP RWEE was aligned with key national policies and plans at country level, as well as broader international commitments and frameworks, including the SDGs³² and Agenda 2030. The programme clearly showed that gender equality and women's empowerment is essential for reducing rural poverty, achieving food and nutrition security, and promoting inclusive and sustainable rural development³³.

Although the start of the JP RWEE predated the onset of the UN reform process, the programme was designed with a strong focus on joint programming and coordination. As evidenced by annual country reports and the final evaluation, it did, however, take some time to establish strong coordination mechanisms and joint implementation was challenging at times (for example, arranging schedules between the four agencies and government representatives to carry out joint monitoring). However, over the course of the programme, joint delivery and strong coordination became the norm and, in some countries, the programme was considered by UN agencies as an excellent example of UN joint programming. For example, in Niger, the JP RWEE team were consulted by other UN

agencies on how to set up a joint programme. Implementation in all countries included joint monitoring visits, joint use of resources and coordinated activities. This integrated programme delivery took into account the needs of beneficiaries in delivering activities as a holistic programme, as well as proving to be a more efficient use of resources. That stated, in some countries there remained challenges at the level of implementing partners who tended to work in silos³⁴.

Partnerships, beyond just the partnership between the participating agencies, were instrumental to the success of the programme. Over the years of implementation, the JP RWEE established strategic partnerships with different stakeholders across the seven countries, including government institutions, private sector actors, academic institutions, NGOs and civil society organisations. As stated in the final evaluation, partnership also contributed to government ownership (both at national and local level). In all countries, the JP RWEE contributed to the government's strategic efforts for the promotion of gender equality through policy and programming for the economic empowerment of rural women. High level involvement of relevant ministries (primarily the MOA and, usually, the Ministry of Women's Affairs) also helped to add prominence to the issue of rural women's economic empowerment. As well as acting as a strategic partner, national and local government actors were closely involved in programme implementation. For example, at local level, authorities were involved in ensuring that there was no overlap with beneficiary targeting and other programmes (Niger and Ethiopia). In Ethiopia, the JP RWEE worked through existing government structures to implement the programme. Annual work planning of the programme was carried out jointly with Government and was able to respond to changing contexts (for example, the inclusion of IDPs in the programme in 2020). Partnership was also used to complement other ongoing relevant interventions, for example, in Nepal, the JP RWEE worked with the IFAD funded Rural Enterprises Remittances Programme (RERP),

26 Ibid.

27 [Gender and agricultural mechanization in Ethiopia- Rapid Assessment](#)

28 [The cost of Gender Gap in agricultural productivity in Ethiopia](#)

29 Women and Climate Resilient Agriculture in Liberia: A Situational Analysis, Ministry of Agriculture, 2018.

30 Report on the Status of Women in Cross Border Trade, Thomas B. Kanneh, 2017.

31 Report on the Status of Women in Village Savings and Loan Associations, Thomas B. Kanneh, 2017.

32 Contribution to SDGs 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 16 and 17.

33 FAO, IFAD, UN Women, WFP and Mokoro, 2021. Accelerating Progress towards Rural Women's Economic Empowerment in Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Nepal, Niger and Rwanda from 2014 to 2020: Final Evaluation, Rome.

34 Ibid.



implemented by the Government of Nepal, to expand the use of GALS. In Liberia, the government, in collaboration with the UN system, adapted several good practices and lessons learned from the JP RWEE when developing new programmes and projects (e.g., the EU funded Liberia Spotlight Initiative on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls adapted the JP RWEE business skills and access to finance training curricula). Partnership with private sector and other institutions was also established in some countries: for example, in Liberia with Orange Money, which led to the creation of decent work opportunities for women as mobile money agents; in Guatemala with Barefoot College India; in Rwanda with AIF and EAX which enabled farmers to increase income

from sales of maize, and in Ethiopia with Adama Tulu Agriculture Research Centre in relation to the establishment of a climate smart village model.

The JP RWEE was part of the UNDAF/UNSDCF in all countries and the UNCT and UN Resident Coordinator (RC) was regularly updated on the programme. However, the office of the RC did not have a co-chairing role in the National Steering Committee, as originally intended and it is intended to strengthen this in the second phase of the programme.

Alliances were also established with other UN agencies for additional expertise at country level. For example, in Liberia, a collaboration was established with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) for building synergies with ongoing programmes and projects (including SRH, SGBV reduction and climate change mitigation).

Through field visits and interaction with rural women's groups and relevant stakeholders, the JP RWEE teams observed positive qualitative changes taking place in beneficiaries' lives and livelihoods. For example, in Nepal, field monitoring reports highlighted that: family members are now able to work full time on their own farms instead of going out to try and earn cash as daily workers; more children are going to school regularly; there is an increased quantity and diversity of vegetable consumption and there is enhanced capacity to determine prices resulting from stronger market linkages. In Kyrgyzstan, women stated that they gained power for decision-making, increased self esteem and confidence, and confirmed their ability to manage and make profit from agricultural activities³⁵. The combination of provision of inputs and training on agricultural technologies led to improvement in rural women's livelihoods, as testified by one beneficiary.

In Niger, annual Dimitra Club self-assessments identified important changes in the daily lives of beneficiaries and their family members, including improved social cohesion, local initiatives within the communities to acquire



We used to buy seeds on the market, and we were not sure about the quality of those seeds. Sometimes we had to re-cultivate because the germination ability of seeds was very low. After we got seeds as support [from the JP RWEE], the situation changed, and we produced juicy vegetables that are in great demand in the markets. Quality seeds together with knowledge of agri-technologies have tremendously improved the financial well-being of our families”.



productive resources (such as construction of social infrastructure, purchase or rental of land for community including collective fields or market gardens) and higher attendance at health centres and in girls' schooling. In Guatemala, women beneficiaries are now well informed about their rights and have the confidence to approach the relevant institution to demand services. They felt empowered and important transformative changes took place in their communities. The below beneficiary testimony shows how the programme helped to develop women's agency³⁶:

During the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020,

³⁶ FAO, IFAD, UN Women, WFP and Mokoro, 2021. Accelerating Progress towards Rural Women's Economic Empowerment in Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Nepal, Niger and Rwanda from 2014 to 2020: Final Evaluation, Rome.



“[The JP RWEE] is important to us because it has meant a way to change our lives...we feel safer to start undertaking and we also have the recognition of our husbands and families to do so. We did not know about sexuality or rights, nor of a way to make money and also contribute to our family, not just the men. Giving us this opportunity, so that we can express ourselves and decide also in our lives the changes we need, is something that has been very important, and the joint programme has given it to us. We have received a lot of training that has taught us to work better, to organize us better, to contribute financially to our families. We did not have that before.’

– Community group participant from field notes in Guatemala

³⁵ ‘Reflection Sessions on the Changes in Women SHGs’, April 2021: Final evaluation of Kyrgyzstan Joint UN Women/FAO/IFAD/WFP Programme on Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women, 2017.



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“We used to buy seeds on the market, and we were not sure about the quality of those seeds. Sometimes we had to re-cultivate because the germination ability of seeds was very low. After we got seeds as support [from the JP RWEE], the situation changed, and we produced juicy vegetables that are in great demand in the markets. Quality seeds together with knowledge of agri-technologies have tremendously improved the financial well-being of our families”

it was observed through programme monitoring and feedback from rural women and local stakeholders, that women were active in articulating needs and demanding appropriate responses from decision makers during the crisis. This is an important result in terms of women's empowerment and participation and indicates an element of sustainability beyond the programme's duration. This was evidenced in Kyrgyzstan, for example, where local women participating in the JP RWEE were involved in distributing aid items within their communities; in Nepal, where rural women took the initiative to lobby local authorities on their response plans, and in Niger where JP RWEE beneficiaries carried out COVID-19 prevention and awareness sensitisation within their communities.

Finally, the Multi Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) funding allocation enabled some success in mobilising additional resources at country level: US\$ 1.5 million was received from the Government of Spain through the SDG Fund in Ethiopia and US\$ 1 million from the UNDP II Sustainable Development Fund in Rwanda. In Niger and Liberia, there were modest funds received from the country-based pool funding and the Embassy of Sweden respectively, as well as in-kind support from private sector partners in Liberia. Efforts to raise additional resources in other countries were unsuccessful, with high levels of competition in country in relation to available funding.

i. Indicator Based Performance Assessment

See Annex One.

ii. Evaluation, Best Practices and Lessons Learned

Mid Term Evaluations

In 2018, mid-term evaluations were completed in Ethiopia, Kyrgyzstan, and Rwanda (2019), and a mid-term review was completed in Liberia. The key findings and recommendations were used to improve programme implementation and adapt programme strategies. For example, in Ethiopia, the mid-term evaluation revealed a lack of strong engagement of men. Based

on this identified gap, the JP RWEE designed stronger men engagement activities: men in the community were invited to take part in community conversations and men-only dialogues on the issues of gender equality and women's empowerment were organized. In Kyrgyzstan, the mid-term evaluation confirmed that the JP RWEE's design and results were well-aligned with the needs of the target beneficiaries. However, it also revealed that the most vulnerable people were excluded in the targeting process due to exclusionary criteria (availability of land). The programme addressed these shortcomings by revising the targeting strategy. The mid-term review in Liberia recommended improving joint delivery of interventions including joint targeting of beneficiaries and linking VSLAs to Micro Finance Institutions. In addition, it emphasized the need for the JP RWEE to adapt a climate-resilient approach to improving food and nutrition security, which was subsequently undertaken. In Rwanda, key recommendations from the mid-term evaluation included: strengthening monitoring and evaluation, integrating men into the programme's activities, limiting the number of groups targeted and focusing the kitchen garden interventions for household-level food and nutrition security.

Final Evaluation

A final qualitative evaluation³⁷ was carried out at global level from October 2020 to April 2021, covering the period of implementation from October 2014 to October 2020. Primary data collection was conducted in Guatemala, Nepal, and Niger whilst an in-depth desk-based review, including remote interviews with key stakeholders, was carried out for Ethiopia, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia and Rwanda. The evaluation objectives were evaluated against the following DAC criteria: Relevance, Coherence, Effectiveness, Efficiency, and Sustainability.

Key findings include the following:

Relevance:

- The JP RWEE was found to be highly relevant, well aligned to relevant national plans and policy frameworks and very closely aligned to the needs of the rural

women involved, which was key for ensuring the success and ownership of the programme.

- There was also strong alignment to the SDGs, with clear contributions to SDGs 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 16 and 17.

Coherence:

- There was strong internal coherence between the agencies and between the JP RWEE objectives and agency mandates, with the comparative advantages of the PUNOs being leveraged to achieve the results in an integrated manner and synergies being created between the PUNOs, government institutions and community organisations.
- Mechanisms for coordination between implementing partners needed improvement to reduce working in silos.

Effectiveness:

- The programme was found to have made a significant contribution to rural women's improved livelihoods through improved agricultural practices, linkages to markets, awareness raising and leadership building.
- There was clear evidence of shifts in social norms by both men and women in relation to equitable household relations, as well as reported increase in self-confidence and self-esteem among women.
- Involving men and boys is critical and requires a strategic, systematic approach.
- Policy level change takes longer and there was less evidence of results in this area, with varying degrees of scope and effectiveness between the countries.
- Sufficient focus on learning at the national and global level was found to be lacking and a targeted approach is needed to influence policy.

Efficiency:

- Annual allocation of funding by donors affected the achievement of results and reduced efficiency, whilst annual work plan cycles affected speed of implementation. Multi-annual funding is required to ensure that transformative results can be achieved and sustained.
- Monitoring of programme processes and

results was weak, which hindered the generation of evidenced based findings. A uniform, joint approach to monitoring and evaluation (M&E) enabling comparison across countries is needed.

- The governance structures were a critical component of the programme and technical coordination at global and country levels became more efficient over time.

Sustainability:

- Selected elements of the programme, such as the savings groups, showed signs of sustainability. However, sustainability remains challenging for activities that require sizeable investments and capacity to purchase inputs and where government cannot take over the roles of implementing partners.
- Replication of the JP RWEE occurred at a modest scale where elements of the programme were taken over by partners (including government) and where other joint programmes integrated lessons from the JP RWEE into their design.
- The programme did not focus on environmental factors and, going forward, should mainstream and prioritize climate change across all activities.

WEAI Synthesis Report

The WEAI was carried out in Ethiopia, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal and Niger and involved a total of 3,258 men and 3,923 women in control and treatment groups. Key results are as follows:

In general, empowerment scores were higher among women and men in beneficiary households, and, while men typically have higher empowerment scores regardless of beneficiary status, the gap between men and women was smaller among beneficiary households. Across all countries, women in the treatment groups were more empowered than those in the control groups. Women were more disempowered than men in all countries, with the notable exception of Nepal, where women in the treatment group are less disempowered relative to the men in the treatment group.

With regards to the causes of the disempowerment, lack of work balance was a main factor in all four countries. In Niger, lack

³⁷ The evaluation was conducted by an external consultancy firm, engaged through a competitive process. It adhered to the UN Evaluation Group Norms and Standards and was conducted under WFP's quality assurance system for decentralized evaluations (DEQAS) and used a mixed-method, theory-based approach.

of ownership of land and other assets was the biggest cause of disempowerment of women, followed by work balance, and access to and decisions on credit and financial accounts. In Nepal, although work balance was the largest contributor to women's disempowerment, it was substantially reduced for women in the treatment group compared to women in the control group. In Kyrgyzstan, a lack of work balance, input in livelihood decisions, and ownership of land and other assets were the major contributors to the disempowerment of women in the treatment group, although, again, their disempowerment was less severe compared to those in the control group.

In Ethiopia and Nepal, participation in the JP RWEE increased the likelihood that women were empowered, increased their empowerment score and also increased the likelihood that the household achieved gender parity. However, for men in Nepal, programme participation was associated with a lower likelihood that men are empowered. In Niger, participation was positively and equally associated with both men and women's empowerment score. Finally, in Kyrgyzstan, participation in the programme was also associated with a higher likelihood of a woman being empowered and a higher empowerment score. Participation in GALS was associated with a higher empowerment score for both women and men, and a higher likelihood that men are empowered. Participation in the GALS/BALI intervention had positive impacts for both women and men alike on the probability of being empowered as well as the empowerment score.

With regards to the aspects of the programme that contributed to this greater empowerment, the following were identified. In Ethiopia, the JP RWEE improved women's adequacy with respect to access to, and decisions on, credit, as well as their workload. In Niger, the programme improved control over the use of income and adequacy with respect to workload, although it reduced adequacy respect to asset ownership (albeit only weakly). In Nepal, the programme was associated with achieving adequacy in terms of production, access to/decisions on credit, control over the use of income, and group membership. Finally, in Kyrgyzstan, the common intervention was associated with achieving adequacy with respect to input in

production decisions and group membership. The GALS intervention increased the probability of adequacy with respect to input in productive decisions, but the GALS/BALI intervention was associated with increases in adequacy with regards to: input in productive decisions, ownership of assets, access to/decisions on credit, control over the use of income, and group membership.

In Ethiopia, participation in the JP RWEE increased the number of credit sources women have access to and decide on, although programme participation appeared to decrease the number of assets she solely or jointly owns. In Niger, the programme appeared to reduce the number of decisions into which the woman has input. In Nepal, participation in the programme had positive impacts on the number of productive decisions, the number of assets solely or jointly owned, the number of credit sources a woman has access to/decides on, the number of income decisions she makes, and the number of groups to which she belongs. Interestingly, most of the impact in Kyrgyzstan is observed on the number of groups to which she belongs, although the GALS/BALI intervention also increased the number of assets owned and the number of income decisions she makes.

There was also evidence of impacts of the programme on men. Participation in JP-RWEE was associated with men's achieving adequacy with respect to access to/decisions on credit, and in Niger, the program improved adequacy in terms of input in production decisions and control over the use of income (both weakly significant) and workload. In Nepal, the program had a negative effect on adequacy with respect to workload and an apparent, although small, positive impact on adequacy with respect to asset ownership. Finally, in Kyrgyzstan, the GALS and GALS/BALI interventions improved men's adequacy with respect to input in production decisions, asset ownership, and access to/decisions on credit. GALS improved adequacy with respect to group membership and work balance, and GALS/BALI improved adequacy with respect to control over use of income.

GALS Assessment

GALS was implemented in Nepal, Niger and Rwanda and GALS approaches were disseminated in Guatemala. Qualitative

assessments were carried out at the end of the programme in Nepal, Niger and Rwanda³⁸. The qualitative assessments showed that GALS had had significant impact in increasing women's social capital as well as contributing to their financial autonomy and economic empowerment. The majority of women reported that positive changes have occurred in their lives after they participated in GALS. This included through acquiring new skills and knowledge for improved production, improved decision-making and joint discussion of household issues. Improved living conditions were assessed as an essential impact of GALS on women's households.

In both countries, GALS was identified as having had a strong effect on empowerment. GALS had an immediate and strong effect on improved family relations and respect among household members. This resulted in improved decision making and discussion on household issues. Productive decisions, among others, in areas such as decision-making in agriculture/income are now taken jointly. Women are now consulted more, including when selling agricultural produce, although men still have the final say on agricultural matters in Nepal and still take significant decisions without women in Kyrgyzstan. The GALS intervention was also found to have a strong effect in relation to control over income, with all family members now disclosing their income and also being more inclined to pool household income. There was evidence of women getting autonomy in the utilizing of income. In Kyrgyzstan there was more control over using finances for livelihoods, although in Nepal financial autonomy related to household matters. As a result of GALS, women now have more aspirations and are more active, both in their household economic life as well as in the community. These aspirations arose directly from the socio-psychological benefits and change in the 'self' as a result of the GALS training. Women, especially GALS champions, have become more active in local social activities and now participate more in public meetings. GALS was found to have increased women's social capital and enabled them to speak up and be listened to, including in

claiming resources from local government.

In both Kyrgyzstan and Nepal, the requirements of GALS to attend trainings increased women's burden due to the need to look after children and carry out household chores. However, following the GALS activities, the intervention was found to have contributed to the revision of the allocation of and resulted in a more balanced distribution of responsibilities between family members, which in turn contributes to the improvement of households' livelihoods. For those who also participated in BALI in Kyrgyzstan, there was an even greater sharing of household chores and domestic work burden. In Nepal, GALS was found to have directly contributed to decrease reproductive household and increased productive agricultural work of women.

Frequent follow-up is needed to keep the learning of the GALS afresh, especially among illiterate women. This places a large demand on the voluntary time of GALS Champions. The long-lasting effect of GALS will depend on the will of the individual GALS recipient, her capacity to influence her family members for its adoption, and regular follow-up by GALS facilitators.

CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

i. Resilience Building - whilst resilience building was not a part of the programme design, the experience of the COVID-19 global pandemic served to show that JP RWEE beneficiaries were able to build resilience as a result of the programme interventions, including through increased production, assets, income and access to credit³⁹. For the second phase of the programme, resilience building has been incorporated into the programme design, taking into account the increasing global impact of climate change and vulnerability to shock in JP RWEE countries. Savings and lending groups proved to be a critical mechanism in enabling women to withstand the shocks to their livelihoods caused by the pandemic. Ability to employ positive coping mechanisms as a result of participation in the programme was reported by women in all countries⁴⁰. For example,

38 Rwanda GALS Assessment was delayed due to COVID-19 restrictions and is currently being completed.

39 FAO, IFAD, UN Women, WFP and Mokoro, 2021. Accelerating Progress towards Rural Women's Economic Empowerment in Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Nepal, Niger and Rwanda from 2014 to 2020: Final evaluation, Rome.

40 Ibid.

in Ethiopia, Liberia and Rwanda, where women group members had not practiced a savings culture prior to participation in the programme, women reported being able to draw on savings or take out loans to cover their reduced income during periods of restrictions to movement. Beneficiaries also reported having developed the confidence to manage challenging financial situations within their business and family. Food reserves developed through the programme were also a key coping mechanism when women and their households were unable to access nutritious food due to movement restrictions and a lack of access to markets. For example, women beneficiaries in Liberia, Niger and Rwanda used homegrown vegetables from kitchen gardens and community grain reserves to maintain food security and nutrition. In some cases, women were also able to generate income through selling the produce, for example in Nepal, where women sold vegetables ‘door-to door’, rather than through the traditional market mechanism.

ii. Experience Sharing – this was a valuable mechanism for the transfer of technical knowledge and good practice. In Kyrgyzstan, for example, the need for exchange of experiences and good practices among members of self-help groups was identified as critical by beneficiaries. Women POs also had the capacity to expand access to new members from other villages who were willing to join and meet membership responsibilities. In Ethiopia, women cooperative members participated in experience sharing visits to JP RWEE cooperatives in a neighbouring district, which helped them in business diversification and income generation through seeing new practices and technologies in use (animal fattening shed site, bio-gas plant, climate smart agriculture initiatives). Local government officials were also involved in the experience sharing visit, following which the Woreda (district) Administrator stated, “The work done here will give us lesson on how we can work on agricultural activities in drought prone areas. On another occasion, South-South exchange took place when two rural women beneficiaries from Liberia visited the programme in Ethiopia.

iii. Inter-agency collaboration/coordination – as detailed above, over time, participating agencies in all countries established effective ways of working together and this integrated

way of working enabled a holistic approach to the programme, with activities being delivered in a sequenced and logical way. In Niger, a successful coordination model was established amongst the PUNOs and implementing partners, in response to initial challenges and weakness in communication and collaborated. A multi-actor platform involving the PUNOs, local government and implementing partners was established and met twice a year, or as needed, to discuss progress and find solutions to challenges, taking into account beneficiary feedback. For the second phase of the programme, this successful model will be replicated in all participating countries in order to address the problem of implementing partners working in silos and ensure effective programme implementation.

iv. Monitoring and Evaluation - the need for a more robust M&E system was one of the main learnings of the programme. The lack of a harmonized system across the countries, along with a lack of baselines in some countries, meant that global level aggregation of data and analysis was challenging. This reduced opportunities for evidenced based learning, South-South exchange and contribution to policy dialogue. A uniform M&E system has been designed for the second phase of the programme, which will allow for global level aggregation and analysis whilst also responding to requirements at country level.

v. Improving Digital Access for Rural Women - the need for improved access to Information Communication Technologies (ICT) for rural women farmers was particularly highlighted during the COVID-19 pandemic. In those countries where women had more access to ICT infrastructure, the programme was able to facilitate access to women for ICT based services such as access to weather and market information and online selling mechanisms. However, in those countries with more limited access, the need to strengthen ICT access for rural women in future programming was a key learning. For example, in Nepal, the programme team and local stakeholders identified the need for the establishment of a digital learning community centre in the targeted communities in order to help achieve greater empowerment of rural women and ensure stronger linkage mechanisms to markets.

Good Practices

i. Programming Through Women’s Groups - the strategy of working through women’s groups contributed to women’s empowerment in multiple ways. Whilst the main purpose of the groups was economic empowerment through improved entrepreneurship and income generation, the groups also served to generate social capital for women and contribute to transformative change and as platforms for women to approach local government, claim their rights and gain visibility as economic actors. The groups increased recognition for women’s work, developed women’s business potential, increased opportunities for market access and income generation. They also proved to be a key mobilising and coping mechanism during times of crisis, most notably the COVID-19 pandemic.

ii. Social Norms Transformation – social norm change was evidenced across all countries and was brought about through the use of gender transformative and participatory methodologies, which involved wider household and community members. In Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal and Rwanda, the use of GALS was successful in empowering women to think creatively about their lives and livelihood strategies and in achieving the support of their spouses and male household members in their group and business activities⁴¹. In Niger, the Dimitra Club activities resulted in significant changes to cultural practices in communities with deeply entrenched social norms. This included the development of a common understanding on how social beliefs and unequal gender norms prevent nutritional balance. Through community dialogues and newly acquired

41 Refer to section Evaluation and Other Assessments



Photo: UN Women Ethiopia/ 2017

knowledge on nutrition, changes in cultural practice among men and women were stimulated. During the crisis caused by the global pandemic, in many of the participating countries, men and women were able to work together at household level to implement coping mechanisms, whilst at community level women participated in the response and lobbied authorities for the inclusion of women's needs in response plans.

iii. Engagement of men - as the programme developed and adapted to learning, there was successful engagement with men which contributed to bringing about gender transformative change. Male household and community members were able to realize the benefits from changes in women's lives for themselves and their families. In some countries, a small number of men were included as direct beneficiaries, whilst in others, they were involved in supporting programme activities through inclusive methodologies such as GALs, community conversations, Dimitra Listening Clubs, sensitisation and awareness raising activities or through strategic dialogues and consultations on issues of gender equality and women's rights. There are multiple examples of transformative change being brought about through engaging men, as documented in the final evaluation and other sources.

iv. Importance of Working through Local Stakeholders – ensuring local level ownership was key to the success of the programme and contributed to the likelihood of sustainability. In addition to working with local structures and groups, local government was closely involved in the programme. In Ethiopia, for example, the JP RWEE was not only aligned with national policies but also integrated its work within existing governmental structures which involved working with government institutions as direct implementing partners, including carrying out institutional capacity building. This significantly increased the sustainability of the women's cooperatives involved in the programme. In Rwanda, as a result of a strengthened partnership on the ground with local authorities, the JP RWEE was able to reach more rural women and men than planned and provided them with technical support and training on topics varying from land rights to fruit grafting techniques. The importance of local

government involvement was also highlighted during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in Ethiopia, Liberia, Niger and Rwanda, where local authorities played an important role in overseeing the programme's implementation, carrying out monitoring visits, providing progress updates and suggesting ways to adapt to the context.

v. ICT for Rural Women - at the onset of the global pandemic, the JP RWEE team in Kyrgyzstan partnered with an IT training academy to increase the digital skills of beneficiaries and implementing local government staff. As a result, planned workshops, training and follow-up continued through the use of online platforms. Also in Kyrgyzstan, a Buy from Women E-platform was established and beneficiaries used an e-survey tool to establish the feasibility of a business plan. Technology was also used for remote programme monitoring and supervision in most of the participating countries during the pandemic including Liberia, Rwanda, Guatemala and Nepal, although in Ethiopia and Niger, internet and mobile phone access was challenging and remote supervision was difficult. In Guatemala, teaching modules aimed at facilitating women's economic empowerment were developed for use via a virtual platform specifically focusing on women in rural areas with low levels of schooling. These are now available for use across the country via a virtual platform supported by the National Coalition for Women's Economic Empowerment. In Liberia and Rwanda, women gained new skills in digital literacy and the use of mobile banking for their businesses.

vi. Innovative Tools for Effective Community Level Communication - in Nepal, where internet access is limited amongst beneficiaries, the programme employed an innovative response to the COVID-19 pandemic by adapting its implementation modality from in-person workshops to the use of community radio. Simple radio devices were distributed to 1,059 women, and the planned training and awareness raising was carried out through community radio. Radio programming on topics related to women's empowerment, gender equality and social inclusion were broadcast, and interactive sessions were held through the radio programmes between women and local officials in which they were able to

ask questions, raise concerns and request responses from local government. Anecdotal evidence showed that the radio programmes also raised awareness and improved attitudes towards rural women. By listening to the radio programme together with family members, family members' attitudes towards women beneficiaries' mobility and engagement in public life changed.

vii. Product Diversification - the ability to adapt businesses through product diversification in response to sudden changes in circumstances is an important strategy for withstanding economic shock. In Guatemala and Kyrgyzstan, during the COVID-19 pandemic, women's groups, using the knowledge and skills acquired through the programme, were able to adapt their core business to produce products that were in increased demand as a result of the spread of COVID-19. A group of women weavers in Guatemala used scraps of left-over fabric to produce masks for sale within the local community. Another women's group was able to adapt from shampoo to antibacterial hand soap production, using natural plants, to generate income in response to a huge increase in local market demand. In Kyrgyzstan, women tailors produced face masks for sale in the community.

Knowledge management

Knowledge Management Products

Knowledge management efforts were gradually intensified over the course of the programme. A global learning plan led to the development of several knowledge management products as follows: i. a global final evaluation⁴²; ii. a WEAI Synthesis Report⁴³; iii. the development of four policy briefs⁴⁴; iv. a peer-to-peer learning workshop for the participating countries and an associated good practice booklet.

Further knowledge management products

42 Refer to section Evaluation, Best Practices and Lessons Learned

43 Ibid.

44 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 iv. Making Markets Work for Rural Women.

45 Good Practices, Joint Programme on Accelerating Progress Towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women, FAO, IFAD, WFP and UN Women, Rome 2018.

46 <https://www.ifad.org/en/web/latest/-/photo/the-faces-of-empowerment>

47 'Gender Transformative Approaches for Food Security, Improved Nutrition and Sustainable Agriculture: A Compendium of Fifteen Good Practices', FAO, IFAD, WFP; Rome; 2020.

48 Cultivating Equality: Advancing Gender Research in Agriculture and Food Systems, October 12 – 15, 2021, CGIAR Gender Platform and Wageningen University.

developed by the programme at global level included a Good Practice booklet⁴⁵ in 2018, and a photo essay Faces of Empowerment⁴⁶ which was published in 2019 and disseminated widely through the four participating agencies. The JP RWEE was also featured as a good practice in an FAO, IFAD and WFP compendium of good practices on gender transformative approaches⁴⁷.

External Events

The JP RWEE held a number of side events at the annual CSW in New York (CSW 60, 61, 63 and 65). These side events enabled the sharing of good practices on women's economic empowerment including topics such as improving nutrition and reducing rural poverty, closing the gender gaps with regards to access for decent work for rural women, and the sharing of a WEAI assessment in Ethiopia. Two side events were also organised at the 43rd and 45th sessions of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) held in Rome in 2016 and 2018 respectively.

Other events in which the JP RWEE participated included the European Development Days in Brussels in 2016, the OECD First Policy Dialogue Meeting on Women's Economic Empowerment in Paris in 2018; and a conference session at the Cultivating Equality Conference⁴⁸ organised by CGIAR and Wageningen University in the context of the UN Food Systems Summit in October 2021. A webinar was held in May 2021 to share the evaluation findings and was attended by over 200 people from a diverse global audience.

At country level, various events were held in which the JP RWEE featured, including official International Women's Day events and Knowledge 'Share Fair' Events. For example, the JP RWEE featured at a multi-partner regional Share fair on Gender and Resilience in Nairobi in 2016 during which stakeholders

exchanged knowledge and experience on best practice in gender and resilience programming in Africa.

Governance and Coordination Mechanisms

The JP RWEE put in place a robust governance system at both the global and country levels which ensured accountability as well as efficient and effective coordination. At the global level the programme was overseen by an International Steering Committee, composed of senior officers from each of the four participating agencies, representatives of the donors and government representatives from each of the participating countries. The ISC met on an annual basis and was responsible for the overall strategic direction of the programme, approval of country workplans and allocation of funds. The ISC was chaired by one of the participating agencies on an annual rotational basis and was assisted by a Technical Advisory Committee comprising focal points, including senior gender officers and policy specialists, from each PUNO. The TAC met on a monthly or bi-monthly basis throughout the programme and provided technical oversight of the programme. A Global Coordination Unit was responsible for the overall management and coordination of the programme and worked closely with the National Coordinators and country teams in following programme progress and facilitating cross fertilisation and exchange of experiences, including carrying out missions to country programmes.

A similar governance and coordination structure was in place at country level, where a National Steering Committee chaired by a high-level official of the Ministry of Agriculture, had responsibility for the governance of the programme. A lead agency, through a National Coordinator, was responsible for coordinating programme implementation, ensuring the building of synergies, and raising the profile of the JP RWEE in country. A Technical Working Group comprising representatives from each of the PUNOs provided technical guidance and oversight of the programme through regular meetings to discuss progress, challenges and find solutions to bottlenecks.

These mechanisms proved very successful in creating harmonised implementation, increasing understanding of roles and

responsibilities, and enabling quick solutions to challenges, including adapting quickly to adapt programme implementation at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Future Programming

The learning pieces outlined above, along with an internal stocktaking process carried out at global level from October 2020 – January 2021, were key to informing the design of a new phase of the programme. The Technical Advisory Committee carried out three programme design workshops from June to July 2021, reflecting on the programme's evidence based learning and good practices to develop a Theory of Change, along with a comprehensive Logical Framework and new Programme Document. Based on the programme learnings, and the changing context since the original design of the programme, two cross cutting lenses of i. resilience building and ii. gender transformative approaches were incorporated into the programme. The programme's four outcome areas remain and programme strategies and approaches include proven approaches from the programme such as working through women's groups, capacity building at the individual, collective and institutional levels and multi-stakeholder partnerships, along with additional focus such as leveraging ICT and digital agriculture. The new phase of the programme will commence in 2022, initially in Nepal, Niger, Tanzania, Tunisia and the Pacific Islands (Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tonga). These countries were selected following a competitive process in which countries were invited to submit a concept note for participation in the programme based on stated eligibility criteria. Subject to further resource mobilisation, the programme will be scaled up to additional countries, including Rwanda and the Philippines.



Photo: FAO Guatemala/ 2017

A woman wearing a blue patterned shawl is smiling broadly, looking towards the right. She is in a rural setting with a wooden fence and a green building in the background. The image is partially covered by a green box on the left and an orange box on the right.

Specific stories

Engaging Men in Ethiopia for the Empowerment of Rural Women

Mr. Hussen, the husband of a JP RWEE beneficiary has shared his story on how the project has brought him positive behavioral changes in terms of supporting his wife's empowerment.

“

... I thought that I have full control on my wife. I used to believe it is a husband's duty to guide and command his wife's life. For this reason, I was the only one who used to takes decisions for her and the family. I also believed that a wife must be at home, caring for the children. I used to limit my wife's activities and participation outside home. As I have only seen men taking part in public activities and never thought women, and particularly my wife, will be able to take part in public activities. My thoughts and beliefs started to fade after the community dialogue we had with the JP RWEE. Starting from that day, I started to question my beliefs and I helped me to open my mind. Gradually it changed how I perceive and understand about women's participation and its importance. After she started participating in business activities, she was supporting me in household expenses. We were able to send our children to school and our life changed significantly. Now, I have realized that I am the first person to benefit from my wife's empowerment. I have changed my mindset and she is one of the leading active participants in our district cooperative beside running her own business. She has also travelled to USA, New York for JP RWEE experience sharing programme [Commission on the Status of Women]. During that time, I was taking care of the children until her return. Had it not been for JP RWEE, I would never allow her to do what she is doing now.

”



Rural Women's Election to Local Councils in Kyrgyzstan

Tursunai Akmatova lives with her family in the village of Baizak in the Naryn region. Thanks to the JP RWEE, she became a member of the local kenesh. "I believe that thanks to this project, many women were able to awaken their 'I', they believed in themselves and started doing what they love," says Tursunai. In recent years, the representation of women in local councils (Aiyi Keneshes) has greatly decreased, in most cases men were elected as members, and in some villages women themselves believed that politics was only for men. In 2019 a quota of at least 30 percent women deputies in local keneshes was introduced into legislation.

Tursunai Akmatova became a member of her local kenesh in 2017, even before the approval of this quota. Thanks to the knowledge and skills learned through the JP RWEE, she was able to overcome existing stereotypes and began contributing to the development of her village, where she was born and raised.

"While participating in this JP RWEE, I understood a lot, I realized what needs to be said so that we can be heard and that women have the same rights and opportunities as men. In 2017, I put forward my candidacy for the local kenesh and was able to win, our society supported me. I was able to develop my leadership skills, I was able to prove that politics is not only for men, that women can and should do it too," said Tursunai.

As part of her work in the local kenesh, she tried to contribute to the development of the village and the local community. In addition to community work, she also developed women's entrepreneurship; together with like-minded women, she founded a fund, which already includes 50 women. Together they are engaged in farming, growing vegetables and fruits, and in 2018 they developed a new business in which they are engaged in the procurement of canned goods to order.

"Over the years, I have been able to achieve a lot and I am very grateful to my husband and family, who always support me. I just cannot imagine my life without all this now" Tursunai says.



Transforming Vegetable Production and Entrepreneurship in Liberia and Rwanda

Ma Evon Flomo, Age 59

Margibi County, Liberia

“Before my participation in the JP RWEE, I was a struggling gardener in Worhn Town with no access to storage for preserving my produce, especially for pepper, bitterballs, and tomatoes. I had no knowledge or skills in storing nor preserving the produce from my garden. So, most times they would get rotten, and I would lose money and my effort would go in vain.

After a meeting, it was agreed that the JP RWEE would consider constructing a storage house and would train us the women in different areas like food preservation and the use of machineries to process rice and cassava produce. Within 3 months, the storage house was constructed and equipped. About a month later, I received training in food preservation which made me to better understand how to preserve my perishable produce for selling in the local market. Within two months after receiving this training, I started selling powder pepper and pepper sauce including powder bitterballs and tomatoes.

I had the knowledge and skills on preserving my produce, but I had no money. So, I took a loan amounting to LD\$ 8,000.00 (US\$ 47.00 @ 10% interest) from my local VSLA, established by the JP RWEE, to invest in my garden project, After the sale of my produce, I was able to pay back the loan with interest, making it a total of LD\$ 8,800.00 (US\$ 52.00) in payback. I had generated a total of LD\$ 24,700.00 (US\$ 145.29), getting a profit of LD\$ 15,900.00 (US\$ 93.53) from my garden project.” I did not need to worry anymore about my produce spoiling. Customers came and bought my produce, and I have been able to get more money which I am investing in my Village Savings and Loan Association for growing the business.

Because I now make my own money, I have become more independent and always participate in decision making in my house and in my community. I now help my husband to pay our children’s school fees which has helped reduce the burden on the family”.



Rwanda

The JP RWEE in Rwanda, empowered rural women to think outside the box and become innovators within their communities, enhancing both their agricultural and entrepreneurial skills. Women-led agricultural businesses are becoming profitable and, in the process, are improving nutrition for the most vulnerable within their communities.

Through the JP RWEE, Marie-Rose was trained on leadership and good governance. With her new skills, she took the initiative to campaign locally and was successfully elected as a member of the National Women's Council within her sector. JP RWEE also gave her the technical knowledge to be able to graft fruit trees, including mangoes, avocados, tree tomatoes, passion fruits and oranges. "As a member of the Women's Council, I am able to use this platform to share knowledge of planting across the district and also to teach community members on the importance of eating fruits to help reduce malnutrition," she said proudly. "I am also earning money with my grafting business, and have been able to buy my own cow, and pay for my family's medical insurance," Marie-Rose added.



I used to be very shy. I wasn't able to talk in front of the people, especially at the presence of men. Now I feel more empowered and confident."

– Marie-Rose, member of B'impinduka-Nyagisozi, a women's cooperative in Nyaruguru district in Southern Rwanda



Financial Performance



Photo: WFP Niger/ 2021

This Consolidated Annual Financial Report of the **Economic Empowerment of Rural Women** is prepared by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office) in fulfillment of its obligations as Administrative Agent, as per the terms of Reference (TOR), the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the UNDP MPTF Office and the Participating Organizations, and the Standard Administrative Arrangement (SAA) signed with contributors.

The MPTF Office, as Administrative Agent, is responsible for concluding an MOU with Participating Organizations and SAAs with contributors. It receives, administers and manages contributions, and disburses these funds to the Participating Organizations. The Administrative Agent prepares and submits annual consolidated financial reports, as well as regular financial statements, for transmission to stakeholders.

This consolidated financial report covers the period 1 January to 31 December 2021 and provides financial data on progress made in the implementation of projects of the **Economic Empowerment of Rural Women**. It is posted on the MPTF Office GATEWAY <https://beta.mptf.undp.org/fund/RWFOO>

2021 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

This chapter presents financial data and analysis of the **Economic Empowerment of Rural Women** using the pass-through funding modality as of 31 December 2021. Financial information for this Fund is also available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY, at the following address: <https://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/RWFOO>

Sources and Uses of Funds

As of 31 December 2021, 2 contributors deposited US\$ **31,375,610** and US\$ **134,395** was earned in interest.

The cumulative source of funds was US\$ **31,510,005**.

Of this amount, US\$ **29,005,921** has been net funded to 4 Participating Organizations, of which US\$ 28,148,346 has been reported as expenditure. The Administrative Agent fee has been charged at the approved rate of 1% on deposits and amounts to US\$ **313,756**. Table 1 provides an overview of the overall sources, uses, and balance of the **Economic Empowerment of Rural Women** as of 31 December 2021.

Table 1. Financial Overview, as of 31 December 2021 (in US Dollars)

	Annual 2020	Annual 2021	Cumulative
Sources of Funds			
Contributions from donors	-	2,210,751	31,375,610
Sub-total Contributions			
Fund Earned Interest and Investment Income	3,566	1,041	134,302
Interest Income received from Participating Organizations	-	-	92
Total: Sources of Funds	3,566	2,211,792	31,510,005
Use of Funds			
Transfers to Participating Organizations	-	323,000	27,420,076
Refunds received from Participating Organizations	-	-	(439,769)
Net Funded Amount	-	323,000	26,980,307
Administrative Agent Fees	-	22,108	313,756
Direct Costs	-	-	2,025,614
Bank Charges	09	12	624
Total: Uses of Funds	09	345,120	29,320,301
Change in Fund cash balance with Administrative Agent	3,556	1,866,672	2,189,704
Opening Fund balance (1 January)	319,475	323,031	
Closing Fund balance (31 December)	323,031	2,189,704	2,189,704
Net Funded Amount (Includes Direct Cost)	-	323,000	29,005,921
Participating Organizations' Expenditure (Includes Direct Cost)	3,753,383	4,743,844	28,148,346
Balance of Funds with Participating Organizations	(3,753,383)	(4,420,844)	857,575

Partner Contributions

Table 2 provides information on cumulative contributions received from all contributors to this fund as of 31 December 2021.

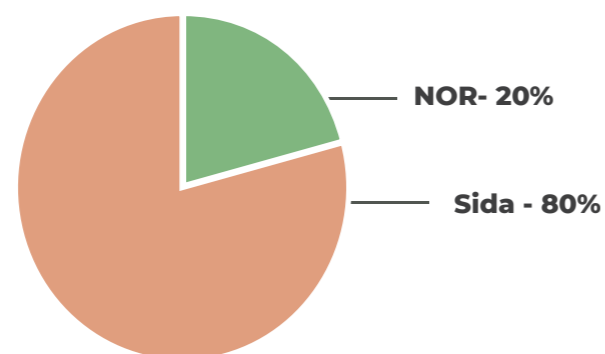
The **Economic Empowerment of Rural Women** is currently being financed by 2 contributors, as listed in the table below.

The table includes financial commitments made by the contributors through signed Standard Administrative Agreements with an anticipated deposit date as per the schedule of payments by 31 December 2021 and deposits received by the same date. It does not include commitments that were made to the fund beyond 2021.

Table 2. Contributions, as of 31 December 2021 (in US Dollars)

Contributors	Total Commitments	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2020 Deposits	Current Year Jan-Dec-2021 Deposits	Total Deposits
Government of Norway	6,127,970	6,127,970	-	6,127,970
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)	25,247,640	23,036,889	2,210,751	25,247,640
Grand Total	31,375,610	29,164,859	2,210,751	31,375,610

Figure 1. Deposits by contributor, cumulative as of 31 December 2021



Interest Earned

Interest income is earned in two ways: 1) on the balance of funds held by the Administrative Agent (Fund earned interest), and 2) on the balance of funds held by the Participating Organizations (Agency earned interest) where their Financial Regulations and

Rules allow return of interest to the AA.

As of 31 December 2021, Fund earned interest amounts to US\$ **134,302**.

As Interest received from Participating Organizations amounts to US\$ **92**, bringing the cumulative interest received to US\$ **134,395**. Details are provided in the table below.

Table 3. Sources of Interest and Investment Income, as of 31 December 2021 (in US Dollars)

Interest Earned	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2020	Current Year Jan-Dec-2021	Total
Administrative Agent			
Fund Earned Interest and Investment Income	133,261	1,041	134,302
Total: Fund Earned Interest	133,261	1,041	134,302
Participating Organization			
FAO	92	0	92
Total: Agency earned interest	92	0	92
Grand Total	133,353	1,041	134,395

Transfer of Funds

Allocations to Participating Organizations are approved by the Steering Committee and disbursed by the Administrative Agent. As of 31 December 2021, the AA has transferred US\$ **27,420,076** to 4 Participating Organizations (see list below).

Table 4 provides additional information on the refunds received by the MPTF Office, and the net funded amount for each of the Participating Organizations.

Table 4. Transfer, Refund, and Net Funded Amount by Participating Organization (in US Dollars)

Participating Organizations	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2020			Current Year Jan-Dec-2021			Total		
	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded
FAO	7,188,265	-	7,188,265	70,000	-	70,000	7,258,265	-	7,258,265
IFAD	3,266,464	(439,769)	2,826,695				3,266,464	(439,769)	2,826,695
UN Women	8,539,158	-	8,539,158	120,000	-	120,000	8,659,158	-	8,659,158
WFP	8,103,189	-	8,103,189	133,000	-	133,000	8,236,189	-	8,236,189
Grand Total	27,097,076	(439,769)	26,657,307	323,000	-	323,000	27,420,076	(439,769)	26,980,307

Expenditure and Financial Delivery Rates

All final expenditures reported are submitted as certified financial information by the Headquarters of the Participating Organizations. These were consolidated by the MPTF Office.

Joint programme / Project expenditures are incurred and monitored by each Participating Organization, and are reported to the Administrative Agent as per the agreed upon categories for inter-agency harmonized reporting. The expenditures are reported via the MPTF Office's online expenditure

reporting tool. The 2021 expenditure data has been posted on the MPTF Office GATEWAY at <https://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/RWF00>

Expenditure Reported by Participating Organization

In 2021, US\$ **323,000** was net funded to Participating Organizations, and US\$ **4,313,560** was reported in expenditure.

As shown in table below, the cumulative net funded amount is US\$ **26,980,307** and cumulative expenditures reported by the Participating Organizations amount to US\$ **26,272,175**. This equates to an overall Fund expenditure delivery rate of **97.38** percent.

Table 5.1 Net Funded Amount and Reported Expenditures by Participating Organization, as of 31 December 2021 (in US Dollars)

Participating Organization	Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Expenditure			Delivery Rate %
			Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2020	Current Year Jan-Dec-2021	Cumulative	
FAO	7,258,265	7,258,265	5,702,793	1,315,394	7,018,186	96.69
IFAD	2,826,695	2,826,695	2,179,515	327,723	2,507,238	88.70
UN Women	8,659,158	8,659,158	7,601,707	952,377	8,554,084	98.79
WFP	8,236,189	8,236,189	6,474,600	1,718,066	8,192,667	99.47
Grand Total	26,980,307	26,980,307	21,958,615	4,313,560	26,272,175	97.38

Expenditure by project

The net funded amounts, expenditures reported and the financial delivery rates by project and Participating Organization.

Table 5.2 Expenditure by Project, grouped by Country

Country / Project No. and Project Title		Participating Organization	Total Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Total Expenditure	Delivery Rate %
Ethiopia						
00092000	RWEE Ethiopia	FAO	933,418	933,418	826,331	88.53
00092000	RWEE Ethiopia	UN Women	901,123	901,123	810,885	89.99
00092000	RWEE Ethiopia	WFP	1,598,715	1,598,715	1,601,330	100.16
Ethiopia Total			3,433,256	3,433,256	3,238,546	94.33
Guatemala						
00092001	RWEE Guatemala	FAO	977,688	977,688	977,606	99.99
00092001	RWEE Guatemala	IFAD	250,500	250,500	186,882	74.60
00092001	RWEE Guatemala	UN Women	1,307,774	1,307,774	1,305,573	99.83
00092001	RWEE Guatemala	WFP	1,705,292	1,705,292	1,705,292	100.00
Guatemala Total			4,241,254	4,241,254	4,175,353	98.45
Kyrgyzstan						
00092002	RWEE Kyrgyzstan	FAO	1,070,589	1,070,589	1,050,692	98.14
00092002	RWEE Kyrgyzstan	IFAD	584,500	584,500	572,633	97.97
00092002	RWEE Kyrgyzstan	UN Women	1,560,821	1,560,821	1,560,821	100.00
00092002	RWEE Kyrgyzstan	WFP	1,067,345	1,067,345	1,067,342	100.00
Kyrgyzstan Total			4,283,255	4,283,255	4,251,488	99.26
Liberia						
00092003	RWEE Liberia	FAO	995,021	995,021	900,574	90.51
00092003	RWEE Liberia	UN Women	2,046,885	2,046,885	2,041,849	99.75
00092003	RWEE Liberia	WFP	1,091,349	1,091,349	1,045,214	95.77
Liberia Total			4,133,255	4,133,255	3,987,638	96.48

Nepal						
00092004	RWEE Nepal	FAO	894,739	894,739	890,630	99.54
00092004	RWEE Nepal	IFAD	383,174	383,174	302,982	79.07
00092004	RWEE Nepal	UN Women	1,150,800	1,150,800	1,150,453	99.97
00092004	RWEE Nepal	WFP	894,061	894,061	894,061	100.00
Nepal Total			3,322,774	3,322,774	3,238,125	97.45

Niger						
00092005	RWEE Niger	FAO	1,561,500	1,561,500	1,547,737	99.12
00092005	RWEE Niger	IFAD	842,793	842,793	815,883	96.81
00092005	RWEE Niger	UN Women	852,443	852,443	846,564	99.31
00092005	RWEE Niger	WFP	876,521	876,521	876,521	100.00
Niger Total			4,133,257	4,133,257	4,086,704	98.87

Rwanda						
00092006	RWEE Rwanda	FAO	825,310	825,310	824,617	99.92
00092006	RWEE Rwanda	IFAD	765,728	765,728	628,858	82.13
00092006	RWEE Rwanda	UN Women	839,312	839,312	837,941	99.84
00092006	RWEE Rwanda	WFP	1,002,906	1,002,906	1,002,906	100.00
Rwanda Total			3,433,256	3,433,256	3,294,321	95.95

Grand Total			26,980,307	26,980,307	26,272,175	97.38
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Expenditure by UNSDG Budget Category

Project expenditures are incurred and monitored by each Participating Organization and are reported as per the agreed categories for inter-agency harmonized reporting. In 2006 the UN Development Group (UNSDG) established six categories against which UN entities must report inter-agency project expenditures. Effective 1 January 2012, the UN Chief Executive Board (CEB) modified these categories as a result of IPSAS adoption to comprise eight categories. All expenditure incurred prior to 1 January 2012 have been reported in the old categories; post 1 January 2012 all expenditure are reported in the new eight categories. See table below.

Table 5.3 Expenditure by UNSDG Budget Category, as of 31 December 2021 (in US Dollars)

Category	Expenditures			Percentage of Total Programme Cost
	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2020	Current Year Jan-Dec-2021	Total	
Staff & Personnel Cost	2,798,260	441,879	3,240,139	13.21
Supplies, commodities and materials	2,381,707	457,797	2,839,504	11.57
Equipment, vehicles, furniture and depreciation	837,618	201,547	1,039,165	4.24
Contractual Services Expenses	5,080,012	810,841	5,890,854	24.01
Travel	1,307,690	145,801	1,453,490	5.92
Transfers and Grants	4,500,330	1,113,991	5,614,321	22.88
General Operating	3,516,053	943,099	4,459,152	18.17
Programme Costs Total	20,421,669	4,114,956	24,536,625	100.00
¹ Indirect Support Costs Total	1,536,946	198,604	1,735,550	7.07
Grand Total	21,958,615	4,313,560	26,272,175	

¹ Indirect Support Costs charged by Participating Organization, based on their financial regulations, can be deducted upfront or at a later stage during implementation. The percentage may therefore appear to exceed the 7% agreed-upon for on-going projects. Once projects are financially closed, this number is not to exceed 7%.

Cost Recovery

Cost recovery policies for the Fund are guided by the applicable provisions of the Terms of Reference, the MOU concluded between the Administrative Agent and Participating Organizations, and the SAAs concluded between the Administrative Agent and Contributors, based on rates approved by UNDG.

The policies in place, as of 31 December 2021, were as follows:

- **The Administrative Agent (AA) fee:** 1% is charged at the time of contributor deposit and covers services provided on that contribution for the entire duration of the Fund. In the reporting period US\$ **22,108** was deducted in AA-fees. Cumulatively, as of 31 December **2021**, US\$ **313,756** has been charged in AA- fees.
- **Indirect Costs of Participating Organizations:** Participating Organizations may charge 7% indirect costs. In the current reporting period US\$ **198,604** was deducted in indirect costs by Participating Organizations. Cumulatively, indirect costs amount to US\$ **1,735,550** as of 31 December **2021**.

Accountability and Transparency

In order to effectively provide fund administration services and facilitate monitoring and reporting to the UN system and its partners, the MPTF Office has developed a public website, the MPTF Office Gateway (<https://mptf.undp.org>). Refreshed in real time every two hours from an internal enterprise resource planning system, the MPTF Office Gateway has become a standard setter for providing transparent and accountable trust fund administration services.

The Gateway provides financial information including: contributor commitments and deposits, approved programme budgets, transfers to and expenditures reported by Participating Organizations, interest income and other expenses. In addition, the Gateway provides an overview of the MPTF Office portfolio and extensive information on individual Funds, including their purpose, governance structure and key documents. By providing easy access to the growing number of narrative and financial reports, as well as related project documents, the Gateway collects and preserves important institutional knowledge and facilitates knowledge sharing and management among UN Organizations and their development partners, thereby contributing to UN coherence and development effectiveness.

Direct Costs

The Fund governance mechanism may approve an allocation to a Participating Organization to cover costs associated with Fund coordination covering overall coordination, and fund level reviews and evaluations. These allocations are referred to as 'direct costs'. Cumulatively, as of 31 December **2021**, US\$ **2,025,614** has been charged as Direct Costs.

Table 7. Direct Costs

Participating Organization	Current Year Net Funded Amount	Current Year Expenditure	Total Net Funded Amount	Total Expenditure
FAO	-	19,799	420,839	385,155
IFAD	-	32,800	53,500	44,500
UN Women	-	32,000	34,240	34,240
WFP	-	345,685	1,517,035	1,412,276
Total	-	430,284	2,025,614	1,876,171

ANNEX ONE: PERFORMANCE INDICATOR TABLE

	Achievements		Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
OUTCOME 1 Rural women have improved food and nutrition security				
Indicator 1.1.1: Increase of agricultural production of women farmers				
Ethiopia	10% average increase: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15% average increase in Oromia region 5% average increase in Afar region 		Target underachieved as the production in Afar is very limited due to the desert locust and floods that affected the region	Annual monitoring data collected through the Bureau of Agriculture in Oromia and Bureau of Pastoral and Agriculture Development in Afar
Guatemala	53% average increase: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 66.4% increase in corn production (2.19 MT/ha in corn) 39% increase in beans production (1.07 MT/ha in beans) 		Target overachieved following the implementation of improved agricultural practices in the production of corn and bean crops	JP RWEE Bi-Annual and Annual Reports; M&E reports including a production data
Kyrgyzstan	40% higher yield compared to the average yield per ha as per National Statistics Committee data		Target slightly overachieved	Annual reports of JP RWEE; Implementing Partners' final reports
Liberia	67% average increase: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 73% increase for rice production - 68% increase for cassava production - 60% increase for vegetable production 		Target slightly overachieved due to higher productive farming seasons during the reporting years	Reports from MoA and MGCSP; Reports from FAO's crop assessments, JP RWEE's progress reports
Nepal	305% average increase: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 295% increase production of wheat, maize, and rice per household (HH) (from 1,337 kg./HH in the base year to 5,280 kg./HH in 2021 in both districts) - 315% through the increase in vegetable production 		Target overachieved due to improved agriculture production techniques	Production data of targeted beneficiaries
Niger	Plant production (PP): 31% average increase Groundnut 634kg/ha (53% from baseline and +14% to last year) Cowpeas: 486kg/ha (34% from baseline and +33,8%% to last year) Sesame: 429kg/ha (29% from baseline and +2,06% to last year) Millet: 543g/ha (+9%) from baseline and +15,7% to last year) Animal production (AP): Average increase of 126.8% for 1,050 beneficiaries		No planned target set, achievements were in line with expectations	IFAD report; Data from implementing partners; Local government report
Rwanda	80% of beneficiaries reported that their production increased Vegetables: tomatoes, cabbages, onions, beetroots, carrots, amaranthus Fruits: avocados, tree tomato, mangoes		Target slightly overachieved	Implementing Partners and JP RWEE annual Reports (2015-2020)

ANNEX ONE: PERFORMANCE INDICATOR TABLE

	Achievements		Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Indicator 1.1.2: Evidence of improvement of rural women dietary diversity and consumption patterns				
Ethiopia	In Oromia 90% of the targeted beneficiaries eat 3 times a day and 10% eat two times a day In Afar 55% eat three times a day, 37% eat two times a day and 3% eat once a day		Target underachieved, however there was a significant improvement compared to the baseline. The difference from the planned target occurred primarily due to natural disaster which affected food security	Annual monitoring data collected through the Bureau of Agriculture in Oromia and Bureau of Pastoral and Agriculture Development in Afar
Guatemala	Data not yet available			
Kyrgyzstan	Average DDS (Dietary Diversity Score) increased from 4.5 to 6		Target achieved	WFP Post Distribution Monitoring/ Household Verification
Liberia	Minimum Dietary Diversity (MDD) achieved as 88% of rural women are consuming food from four or more of the food groups for dietary diversity and their improved nutrition security (13,074 women and 1,688 men)		Target achieved	Reports from MoA and MGCSP; Reports from FAO's crop assessments; JP RWEE's progress reports
Nepal	100% increase in the quantity and frequency in vegetable consumption 97% of the total HHs supported improved their Food Consumption Score		Target overachieved as the JP RWEE due to the uptake of modern agriculture farming techniques	Field monitoring reports
Niger	Average Food Diversity Score increased from 3.49 to 4.84		Target slightly underachieved due to several food taboos that are gradually changing and the impact of COVID-19 (no access to market to diversify food)	INTES'S Final KAP; Nutrition Evaluation report
Rwanda	12% of households consume animal proteins 13% consume vegetables 13% consume fruits at least 3 times a week 75% of respondents reported improved consumption of nutrient rich foods			Comprehensive food security and vulnerability analysis 2018 report; Women participation and benefits from nutrient-rich food production, purchase, and consumption (2021)

ANNEX ONE: PERFORMANCE INDICATOR TABLE

	Achievements		Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Output 1.1 Rural women have increased access to resources, assets and services critical for their food and nutrition security.				
Ethiopia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 64% of the targeted rural women were able to access integrated agriculture services and inputs 25% in Oromia and 5% in Afar of the targeted beneficiaries started to utilize improved production techniques 842 women beneficiaries have access to time and labor-saving technologies 512 beneficiaries (212 women and 300 men) were trained on climate smart agricultural inputs 		Target on access to integrated agricultural services was overachieved while the others were not due to the drought, floods and political unrest in the country	Monitoring data collected through the Bureau of Agriculture in Oromia and Bureau of Pastoral and Agriculture Development in Afar and FAO
Guatemala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,372 beneficiaries (1,237 women and 135 men) were provided with technical assistance and investments to improve the production of pigs and chickens and crops 3,241 beneficiaries (2,354 rural women and 887 men) gained knowledge on production techniques (the corn crop approach and the home garden approach) 20 new best farm and backyard practices implemented (1,237 women) 3,525 people (2,499 women 1,026 men) trained on gender sensitive nutrition and food security, health promotion, including sexual and reproductive health 		Target overachieved due to more women being involved than planned; nutrition training was given also to parents of children enrolled in school feeding programmes. The use of Milpa and household yard approach increased the number of good practices developed	Training records; JP RWEE Bi-Annual and Annual Reports; M&E reports; Photographs
Kyrgyzstan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3,731 beneficiaries (3,653 women and 78 men) were able to use climate smart agricultural technologies 3,731 rural farmers (3,653 women and 78 men) increased knowledge on agricultural production techniques and were able to practice organic farming 3,653 rural women and 78 men increased access to diversified crop production 498 SHGs received economic inputs for agricultural activities and participated in the Food for Training 		Target achieved	Annual reports JP RWEE Implementing Partner's final reports; Minutes of the JP RWEE Technical coordination meeting
Liberia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 17 women-led agricultural cooperatives (3,145 women) accessed more than US\$ 300,000 in credit through VSLAs and Orange Money 14,762 beneficiaries (13,074 women and 1,688 men) actively engaged in nutrition-sensitive and climate smart agriculture practices 1,966 women from 18 farming groups, received capacity building training in organizational development and loans management 18 farming groups, comprising of 1,966 women, received capacity building on organizational development and leadership skills 		Target achieved	Reports from VSLAs and the Orange Money Team VSLAs Records; Programme progress reports; MoA/MGCSP county progress reports

ANNEX ONE: PERFORMANCE INDICATOR TABLE

	Achievements		Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Nepal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 119 rural women's groups have accessed credit totalling US\$ 99,258.95 in revolving funds 3,002 rural women accessed integrated agriculture/nutrition services through kitchen gardening and commercial vegetable production 3,002 rural women farmers have been utilizing improved agriculture production techniques 3,002 rural women increased access to modern and efficient agriculture equipment made available to them by the programme 1,579 participants (772 women and 807 men) received nutrition sensitization orientations, including activities that used SBCC methodology 		Target overachieved. Capacity development trainings and support to rural women ensured their access to credits. The JP RWEE engaged rural women in kitchen gardening and commercial vegetable production through the formation of groups. This led to their access to integrated agriculture/nutrition services through vegetable production	Field monitoring reports
Niger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 345 women's groups (11,145 women) accessed US\$ 112,690 credit 38 supervisors from partner NGOs (7 women) and 482 leaders from Dimitra clubs (380 women) were directly trained and subsequently trained 4,119 beneficiaries, including 2,850 women 50 sessions of nutrition discussions and cooking demonstrations were conducted with 4,279 participants, including 3,081 women 3,112 women adopted improved production techniques 2,731 women accessed land 366 women and 150 men received training in the use of labour-saving technologies 		Target overachieved due to a strategic revision of all activities to be nutrition-sensitive	Agency and implementing partner reports
Rwanda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 cooperatives (909 women) accessed credit to expand their micro and agri-business projects US\$ 103,411 total savings from the VSLAs (82% increase over the target) 4,892 rural women accessed extension services 3,901 (3,316 women and 685 men) utilize improved food production techniques 974 (782 women and 192 man) households supported in kitchen gardens 10 cooperatives supported to start of beekeeping initiatives/businesses 19 cooperatives trained on fruit grafting techniques and nursery bed management 2,956 households supported to access and plant fruits (avocado and mangoes) 60,457 seedlings were produced 		Planned targets achieved or overachieved due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extension service was initially planned for a small pilot number of women and later on scaled up in partnership with implementing partners and local government The budget available enabled the purchase of more pigs and chicken than was initially planned due to price decreases 	Implementing Partners and JP RWEE annual Reports (2015-2020); VSLA MIS Report (2018-2020)

ANNEX ONE: PERFORMANCE INDICATOR TABLE

	Achievements		Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Output 1.2 Rural women have greater capacity to enhance and control local food security reserves.				
Ethiopia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40% of women beneficiaries in Oromia have increased access and control over local food reserves 15% of women beneficiaries in Afar have increased access and control over local food reserves 		The percentage of increase fluctuated during the years due to the drought, floods and political unrest in the country	Monitoring data collected through the Bureau of Agriculture in Oromia and Bureau of Pastoral and Agriculture Development in Afar and FAO
Guatemala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of women reduced post-harvest losses (857 women, 28.5% reduction) 2 post-harvest good practices implemented (grain drying grain and plastic silos) 		Target achieved	JP RWEE Bi-Annual and Annual Reports; M&E reports; Photographs
Kyrgyzstan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3,111 rural women increased their knowledge through vocational trainings on handicraft, bakery, sewing, repairing mobile phones, financial literacy and business management. 3,653 women improved and increased knowledge on home fruit and vegetable processing. 1,372 beneficiaries and 28 partners increased knowledge on quality nutrition through district health promotion unit specialists. 		Targets overachieved as the availability of funds enabled a greater number of women to be reached	JP RWEE Annual Reports Implementing Partners final reports Minutes of JP RWEE Technical coordination meeting
Liberia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 women-led community grain reserves constructed 600 smallholder farmers (women 509 / men 91) are accessing food processing facilities in Margibi and Grand Bassa Counties 455 women-led associations (e.g., VSLAs) formed 1,966 women beneficiaries linked to markets within the framework of WFP's P4P programme and other market opportunities 		Planned target achieved or exceeded by building synergies with other programmes and projects implemented by the PUNOs	Programme's progress reports; Reports from WFP and FAO; FAO activity reports
Nepal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NA 			
Niger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14,705 women led and managed, cereal bank, platforms, and kits for processing agro pastoral products stocks 402 rural women accessing innovative food processing plants 29 farmers field school established 14 multifunctional platforms (PTFM), 124 donkey and cattle carts, 27 kits for processing agricultural products, 7 standpipes and 9 pulleys installed on community wells 3 community market gardening supported 1 cereal storage warehouse with a capacity of 25 tons was constructed for the Women's Union, composed of 11 grassroots POs 		Additional US\$ 30 000 received in 2021 allowed to buy 2,800 tons	Programme's progress reports; IFAD's Report; UN Women's report; DIKO's report
Rwanda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2,083 households' reserves established 4,892 women accessed extension services 62 Farmer Field Schools facilitators trained and 70 FFS groups in place, with 5,537 beneficiaries (3,875 women and 1,662 men) trained in harvesting skills 19 cooperatives undertook greenhouse vegetable production 1,382 (923 women and 459 men) beneficiaries supported to construct rainwater harvesting system 		The number of beneficiaries and FFS increased over the years due to the support for selection and mobilization of beneficiaries from local government	Implementing Partners and JP RWEE Annual Reports (2015-2020)

ANNEX ONE: PERFORMANCE INDICATOR TABLE

	Achievements		Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
OUTCOME 2 Rural women have increased income to secure their livelihoods and create wealth.				
Indicator 2.1.1: Income generated by rural women's cooperatives from their sales to WFP and other markets				
Ethiopia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 70% (3,276 beneficiaries in Oromia and 333 beneficiaries in Afar) were able to diversify their source of income to two or more 		COVID-19 related restrictions limited businesses, markets and social interaction. This was worsened by the political instability in the country that destroyed a number of businesses	Data collected through Bureau of Women Children and Youth Affairs (BoWCAs) and CPAs Cooperative Promotion Agencies (CPAs)
Guatemala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$ 1,042,664 generated from sales and saving and loans including US\$ 417,531 from association sales and sales of farm and backyard production groups and US\$ 625,133 generated by 51 savings groups 73 women's POs increased their income through sales 		Target overachieved due to better than expected sales performance by women's groups	Sales register, Savings register; JP RWEE Bi-Annual and Annual Reports; M&E reports; Account books
Kyrgyzstan	\$ 1,453, 605 income generated by 498 SHGs (3,731 beneficiaries, including 3,653 women and 78 men) from vegetable production and sales		No planned target	Annual reports of the JP RWEE; Implementing Partner's final reports
Liberia	\$ 358,397.54 generated in sales by women's groups		Exceeded planned target by building synergies with other programmes and projects implemented by the PUNOs	Reports from WFP, FAO, and UN Women Reports from the LNRWS, LMA, and AWICBT JP RWEE progress report
Nepal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$ 515,412.14 earned in sales of crops \$ 300,168.91 generated from sales of vegetables \$ 42,945.94) from wheat seed and grain \$ 172,297.29) from maize seed and grain 		Target overachieved as women encouraged to join the commercial vegetable farming	Field monitoring reports
Niger	\$ 682,171.83 income generated by rural women's cooperatives from their sales through WFP P4P and other markets		Target overachieved due to better than expected performance	Reports of WFP on school feeding programmes Programme's progress report
Rwanda	\$ 198,707 have been generated from sales of maize, beans, horticulture, and processed products		Target overachieved due to better than expected performance	Implementing Partners and JP RWEE Annual Reports (2015- 2020)

ANNEX ONE: PERFORMANCE INDICATOR TABLE

	Achievements		Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Indicator 2.1.2: Evidence of better quality of life and status of rural women				
Ethiopia	• N/A			
Guatemala	• N/A			
Kyrgyzstan	N/A			
Liberia	N/A			
Nepal	The proportion of rural women with empowerment in control over income was 97% among project beneficiaries, as compared to 91% in the control group			Women's Empowerment in Agricultural Index (pro-WEAI) survey
Niger	2% of rural women with empowerment in the income domain of the WEAI (control over use of income)		Target achieved	IFAD 's WEAI end line study report
Rwanda	N/A		The current government policy on mutual health insurance also supported to reach a wider coverage	Implementing Partners and JP RWEE Annual Reports (2015- 2020)

ANNEX ONE: PERFORMANCE INDICATOR TABLE

	Achievements		Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Output 2.1 Rural women have enhanced entrepreneurship skills and value chains to access markets for their products				
Ethiopia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3,879 beneficiaries trained in entrepreneurship and business development 2,095 women accessed diversified market opportunities US\$ 214,764 (9,664,380) saved 3,430 beneficiaries trained in business development skills and marketing 15 women cooperatives with more than 3,280 members have got access to diversified market opportunities 		Target overachieved due to high interest of women. The budget allocated for the purpose was used to train additional women (almost double), by organizing the trainings at the cooperative's centres, with very minimum cost	Monitoring data collected through the Bureau of Agriculture in Oromia and Bureau of Pastoral and training/ monitoring report, SWAA-E; Data collected through BoWCAs, and CPAs
Guatemala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 497 women (10 organizations) sold their products to Government's School Feeding Programme 48% increase in sales from farm and backyard surpluses (333 women achieved up to US\$ 112 monthly) 5,675 women and 167 men strengthened their business skills 		Target overachieved due to implementation of inclusive business models. The number of participants was scaled up through the development of online training courses	JP RWEE Bi-Annual and Annual Reports; M&E reports; Photographs
Kyrgyzstan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6,569 beneficiaries, including 6,154 women, have strengthened their entrepreneurial, financial literacy and business management skills 98% of 3,111 rural women trained on business management started small businesses Average income of each project participant from agricultural activities in seasons was at least US\$ 480 and an average profit reached at least US\$ 350 (30%) 		Targets overachieved based on the high motivation of trained women and the volume of yield and quality of produced vegetables sold at higher prices in market. Additional beneficiaries were covered as part of partnership with UN Women COVID-19 response project	Annual reports of the JP RWEE; Implementing Partner's final reports
Liberia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16,144 women beneficiaries trained in topics including literacy and numeracy, business development, financial management, and access to markets 1,966 women beneficiaries accessed markets within the framework of WFP's P4P programme and other market opportunities 		Target overachieved by building synergies with other programmes and projects on skills building	Reports from WFP, FAO, and UN Women; Programme's progress reports
Nepal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 98 rural women entrepreneurs trained on cooperative management and strengthening 103 rural women farmer's groups (2,542 rural women farmers) engaged in commercial vegetable production and value chain 950 women belonging to 56 groups and 4 cooperatives were involved in the production and supply of home grown produce for school meals 2,003 rural women from 82 rural women's cooperatives enhanced their entrepreneurship skills and engaged in value chains to access markets for their products 		Targets overachieved. Once rural women started earning income from selling of their produce, they were encouraged to join trainings. Rural women increased their access to market and improved their livelihoods	Field monitoring report

ANNEX ONE: PERFORMANCE INDICATOR TABLE

	Achievements		Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Output 2.1 Rural women have enhanced entrepreneurship skills and value chains to access markets for their products				
Niger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 32 women's cooperatives procured agricultural products and home-grown school meals through WFP P4P 8,362 women and 2,747 (32 groups) received training on entrepreneurship and improvement of agricultural techniques 200 rural young women received training on economic and financial literacy and have initiated and/or strengthened self-employment activities 293 Women and girls supported to develop their business plans 		Target overachieved due to exceptional beneficiaries' interest and the possibility to provide extra training with the resources available	Reports of WFP school feeding programmes; Programme's progress reports; FAO and AEDL report
Rwanda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 rural women's cooperatives (532 women) procured agricultural products through home grown school meals 19 cooperatives supported to develop income generating activities 2,083 (1,713 women and 370 men) benefited from loans 77 VSLAs linked to financial institutions 532 rural women trained in entrepreneurship skills and value chains 3,094 (2,197 women and 897 men) directly benefited from the business advisory service and coaching 19 cooperatives with agriculture production sales to the market Governance 		<p>The group/cooperative approach was the best practice to reach a big number of women rather than targeting individuals</p> <p>VSLAs impacted and facilitate to reach more women than what was initially planned</p>	Implementing Partners and JP RWEE Annual Reports (2015-2020) and business plan documents
Output 2.2 Rural women have increased access to decent wage employment opportunities				
Ethiopia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 94% of beneficiaries benefited from gender sensitive financial and non-financial services 1,748 beneficiaries enrolled in Functional Adult Literacy (FAL) 3,609 beneficiaries engaged in Income Generating Activities 		Targets overachieved	Data collected through BoWCAs, SWAAE and CPAs
Guatemala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,586 beneficiaries (1,310 women and 276 men) received technical assistance and support in their agricultural and non-agricultural enterprises 			
Kyrgyzstan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 805 women became self-employed and increased their average income by 29.5% 172 women led Self Help Groups businesses were provided with small and medium size equipment 165 SHG as members of cooperatives and associations run economic initiatives with support of their Revolving fund (RF) 1,159 women marketed their businesses and products through a Buy from Women E-Platform 		Targets overachieved	Annual reports JP RWEE; Implementing Partner's final reports

ANNEX ONE: PERFORMANCE INDICATOR TABLE

	Achievements		Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Output 2.2 Rural women have increased access to decent wage employment opportunities				
Liberia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3,202 women beneficiaries are earning a decent wage with 70 women benefiting from private sector partnership and 3,132 women generating income from small and medium enterprises 		Exceeded planned target by building synergies with other programmes and projects implemented by the PUNOs	Reports from UN Women and Orange Liberia SMS Orange Money Statements Reports from the LNRWS, LMA, and AWICBT
Nepal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2,034 rural women entered wage earning jobs, received NPR 7,881 (US\$ 66.56) on an average (20 days spread over two months), as per the government's local wage rate in the programme districts 		Target overachieved as more rural women farmers expressed their interest to be a part of FFA modality	Field monitoring reports
Niger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,720 rural women initiated income generating activities US\$ 126,000 savings were mobilized by women through saving and credit unions 14 Multifunctional Platforms (PTFM), 124 animals' carts, 33 agricultural processing kits, 7 standpipes and 9 pulleys are installed and reduced the time and nature of women's workloads Women beneficiaries reported that the time spent on water supply is reduced from 5 hours to 1.5 hours 			UN WOMEN's reports
Rwanda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 cooperatives supported to process maize and cassava products into consumable flour 3,670 beneficiaries (2,606 women and 1,064 men) initiated self-employment activities 			Implementing Partners and JP RWEE Annual Reports (2015-2020)
OUTCOME 3: Rural women have enhanced leadership and participation in their communities and in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programmes.				
Indicator 3.1.1: Proportion of rural women elected representatives in rural councils				
Ethiopia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80% of women are leading their agro-business cooperatives, RUSACCOS, represented in Kebele Aba Geda council 			Year-end monitoring data collected through BoWCAs, Implementing partners, and CPA
Guatemala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18% (42 out of 240) women are part of COCODES and the Municipal Urban and Rural Development Councils COMUDES 			Minutes of Development Council meetings, Participants' list
Kyrgyzstan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 19% (41 women and 3 men) of 235 trained beneficiaries were elected to local councils 1 woman became a head of Local self-governance 		No planned target provided	Women's Leadership, Consultant's report, Central Election Committee's election results report
Liberia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18.46% of rural women beneficiaries elected representatives in rural councils on agricultural development and natural resources management 		Target overachieved by building synergies with other programmes and projects implemented by the PUNOs	Reports from UN Women and LLA; Programme's progress reports

ANNEX ONE: PERFORMANCE INDICATOR TABLE

	Achievements		Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
OUTCOME 3: Rural women have enhanced leadership and participation in their communities and in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programmes.				
Indicator 3.1.1: Proportion of rural women elected representatives in rural councils				
Nepal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 64.7 % (1,065) of rural women are now in leadership positions in cooperatives in the two districts 		Target overachieved	Partner's report
Niger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 26% (19 women over 73 elected) of the representatives in rural councils in the target area are women 		Target overachieved	Result of local council elections
Rwanda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 83% of women groups supported under the programme were elected in their respective groups 		Target overachieved	Implementing Partners and JP RWEE Annual Reports (2015-2020)
Indicator 3.1.2: Proportion of rural women who are members of land committees				
Ethiopia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 			
Guatemala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 			
Kyrgyzstan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 			
Liberia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,162 women beneficiaries are active members of land committees 		Target overachieved by building synergies with other programmes and projects implemented by the PUNOs.	Reports from UN Women and LLA; Programme's progress reports
Nepal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 			
Niger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18% (32 women of Falwel Sokorbé, Djirataoua and Guidan Amoumoune) are members of land committees 		Target slightly underachieved as some women died/left the village and have not yet been replaced	Programme's progress reports
Rwanda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 			

ANNEX ONE: PERFORMANCE INDICATOR TABLE

	Achievements		Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Indicator 3.1.3: Proportion of POs led by women				
Ethiopia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14% of the target women have been engaged in leadership (leading their RUSACCOs and agri-business cooperatives as well as local institutions) 18 women have filled positions of leadership in RUSACCOs 		Target achieved	Data collected through BoWCAs, SWAAE and CPAs; SWAAE Periodic Report and Monitoring reports
Guatemala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of POs led by women 			Participants' list; JP RWEE Bi-Annual and Annual reports; M&E reports; Photographs
Kyrgyzstan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of POs led by women 		No planned target	Annual reports JP RWEE; Implementing Partner's final reports
Liberia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18 POs are led by 13 women and 5 men in targeted communities 		Target overachieved by building synergies with other programmes and projects implemented by the PUNOs	Reports from UN Women and LLA; Programme's progress reports
Nepal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 23.7% (552 rural women) increase in rural women's leadership in POs 		Target overachieved	Field monitoring report
Niger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 79.6% of POs led by women 		Target achieved	Programme's progress reports
Rwanda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 84% of POs led by women 			Implementing Partners and JP RWEE Annual Reports (2015-2020)
Indicator 3.1.4: Evidence of rural women's empowerment in intrahousehold decision making				
Ethiopia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of women strengthened their leadership, assertiveness and management skills and leading their cooperatives Almost all (100%) of the target women have equal say on HH resources and matter 		Target overachieved	Data collected through BoWCAs, SWAAE and CPAs; Monitoring/ review meetings conducted with the target groups; Final documentation on best practices and lessons learned
Guatemala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2,522 people (2,271 rural women and 251 men) strengthened their capacities to promote and manage WEAI not completed 		Target overachieved, as leadership from organizations, DM and councils' members were interested in strengthening their capacities on the subject	Participants' list; JP RWEE Bi-Annual Reports; M&E reports
Kyrgyzstan	WEAI results showed that both women and men who received any of the interventions increased their overall empowerment, and this effect is larger for women, who increased overall empowerment by 60%			
Liberia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 			
Nepal	<p>Proportion of rural women farmers with empowerment in the leadership domain of the WEAI (increased decision making):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 83% of rural women in the beneficiary sample compared to 56 per cent of rural women in the comparison sample achieved empowerment The overall empowerment measured Pro-WEAI 3DE29 scores are 0.94 for beneficiaries, and 0.82 for women in the comparison sample 		Target achieved	WEAI report

ANNEX ONE: PERFORMANCE INDICATOR TABLE

	Achievements		Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Indicator 3.1.4: Evidence of rural women's empowerment in intrahousehold decision making				
Niger	<p>Proportion of rural women farmers with empowerment in the leadership domain of the WEAI (increased decision making):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17% speaking in public • 16% group membership 		Target underachieved due to COVID-19 and security restrictions such as the ban on meetings	IFAD 's WEAI baseline and end line study report
Rwanda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 80% of households participated in intrahousehold decision making • 53% of women participate in decision making on choice of crops to grow or livestock to rear 		Target achieved	Women participation in and benefits from nutrient-rich food production, purchase, and consumption (2021)
Kyrgyzstan	WEAI results showed that both women and men who received any of the interventions increased their overall empowerment, and this effect is larger for women, who increased overall empowerment by 60%			
Liberia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 			
Nepal	<p>Proportion of rural women farmers with empowerment in the leadership domain of the WEAI (increased decision making):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 83% of rural women in the beneficiary sample compared to 56 per cent of rural women in the comparison sample achieved empowerment • The overall empowerment measured Pro-WEAI 3DE29 scores are 0.94 for beneficiaries, and 0.82 for women in the comparison sample 		Target achieved	WEAI report
Output 3.1 Rural women, including young women have enhanced confidence and leadership skills to participate in local governance				
Ethiopia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 48 institutions advocated on women's economic rights including their access and control over land and other services and resources • 93.4% of the target community increased their awareness of gender issues and women 's economic rights • 85% (3,508) of women have strengthened their leadership, assertiveness and management skills and leading their cooperatives 			UN Women and Monitoring report Monitoring Visit and SWAA-E report
Guatemala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30% of rural women took part in decision-making spaces at organizational level 			Participants' list; JP RWEE reports; M&E reports; Photos
Kyrgyzstan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 41 women and 3 men beneficiaries became deputy of local councils • 444 rural women leaders participating in the process of local planning and budgeting • 35 community initiatives addressing specific needs of rural women, including in response to the COVID-19 outbreak in their communities • 35 local governments integrated gender priorities in their local plans 		Targets overachieved as the Local election in 2021 established a quota of 30% women participation	JP RWEE Annual reports; Implementing Partner's final reports

ANNEX ONE: PERFORMANCE INDICATOR TABLE

	Achievements		Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Output 3.1 Rural women, including young women have enhanced confidence and leadership skills to participate in local governance				
Liberia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14,982 participated in capacity building in organizational development and leadership skills training 		Target overachieved by building synergies with other programmes and projects implemented by the PUNOs	Reports from UN Women; Reports from the LNRWS; Programme's progress reports
Nepal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,180 rural women visited and held a dialogue with government officials during the local-level planning process 483 rural women again participated in 'Query for My Leader' radio campaign and put forth their concerns and queries to the local representatives 		Implementation modality was adapted to local radio due to COVID-19. The cost of the radio was slightly higher compared to the in-person training	Partner's reports
Niger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,263 women and 812 men enrolled in literacy courses 1,335 women members of formal and informal groups received training in gender, participatory communication, good governance, and leadership 240 leaders (160 women and 80 men) trained and have then trained 2,400 women from 120 Dimitra Clubs 422 women candidates for elections in rural councils 		Target is overachieved through the literacy strategy led by the communities, 104 women facilitators and 141 men facilitators trained the participants in the literacy courses	Reports of the ministries of education; WFP activity reports; Programme's progress reports; FAO report; UN Women's reports; AEDL reports; DIKO reports
Rwanda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 799 women trained on leadership involvement in management 529 (375 women and 154 men) beneficiaries participated in exchange visits 904 (women 786 and 128 men) participated in leadership panel discussions 		Training included training of trainers who roll-out the training to more beneficiaries	Implementing Partners and JP RWEE Annual Reports (2015-2020)
Output 3.2: Rural women have greater organizational capacities to form, sustain and participate into POs, cooperatives and unions				
Ethiopia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 			
Guatemala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2,414 people (2,002 women and 394 men) joined 73 formally registered POs 40% of POs implemented gender policies 		All organizations that were initially formed by men and women established gender policies.	Certificates of municipal registrations; M&E reports; Gender policies of the Organizations
Kyrgyzstan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 223 SHGs out of 498 (1,715 beneficiaries) joined 5 formally registered POs 3,731 beneficiaries, including 3,653 women and 78 men, formed 498 SHGs 5 WPO developed and adopted gender sensitive policies (all headed by women) 		Targets overachieved due to the high potential of SHGs and WPOs to provide services to rural women	JP RWEE Annual reports; Implementing Partner's final reports
Liberia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 17 farming cooperatives are functional across targeted counties 25 informal women's groups comprising of 325 women beneficiaries joined 13 formally registered POs 		Target overachieved by building synergies with other programmes and projects implemented by the PUNOs	Reports from UN Women Programme's progress report

ANNEX ONE: PERFORMANCE INDICATOR TABLE

	Achievements		Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Output 3.2: Rural women have greater organizational capacities to form, sustain and participate into POs, cooperatives and unions				
Nepal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 48 rural women's groups joined 5 cooperatives 51 rural women enhanced their capacity to provide leadership in the operationalization of four agri-product collection centres 		Target overachieved	Field monitoring reports
Niger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 345 women's groups and 3 women's groups unions joined registered POs 167 POs (5397 members of whom 4277 women) reinforced 19 informal POs became formal (including 295 women and 95 men) 34 POs and unions adopted a women's quota for their board 34 women members from 67 POs trained on governance and performance. 3 women groups union created organised collectively to sell their crop to the school feeding programme of WFP 		Target achieved	FAO, AEDL and UN Women reports
Rwanda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 19 cooperatives/groups (100%) adopted gender-responsive strategies and a quota mechanism in leadership positions 9 cooperatives are legally registered 		The increase in participation was attributed to good partnership and cooperation amongst all partners	Implementing Partners and JP RWEE Annual Reports (2015-2020), Rwanda Cooperative Agency Certificates
Output 3.3: Rural women, including young women, have increased capacity to engage in and influence relevant policy forums at national and regional levels				
Ethiopia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 28 women participated in learning visits with successful cooperatives and individuals and have improved their knowledge as result 60 women cooperative leaders and members participated in forums that helped them get experiences from other successful women 4 regional dialogues were conducted, including a forum on Gender and Agricultural Mechanization and a forum on Free Legal Provision for Rural Women 			SWAAE Periodic Reports and BOWCY Reports
Guatemala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 			
Kyrgyzstan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5,500 rural women participated in policy lobbying activities at local and central levels 384 beneficiaries (365 women and 19 men) provided their recommendations for the development of the NGES for 2021-2030 and the NAP 2021-2023 at a national consultation and five regional consultations 		Target overachieved due to the high number of policies lobbying event and commitments of rural women to participate	Annual reports JP RWEE; Implementing Partner's final reports; Database of conducted events and number of participants
Liberia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 key advocacy platforms (LNRWS, AWICBT, LMA, and NPHWOL) strengthened. 4 learning exchange events organized nationally to effectively network and exchange experiences and know-how. 1 rural woman conference and 4 general assemblies organized 		Target achieved	Reports of rural women's networks; Programme's progress reports

ANNEX ONE: PERFORMANCE INDICATOR TABLE

	Achievements		Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Output 3.3: Rural women, including young women, have increased capacity to engage in and influence relevant policy forums at national and regional levels				
Nepal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 			
Niger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 67 POs trained in gender and equity • 79 (34 women 45 men) trained on governance and performance in POs • 34 women trainers, in turn, trained 1,549 women • 240 local leaders (160 women and 80 men) enhanced leadership skills and decision-making power, participated in decision making at local level • 4 Dimitra clubs network created 			Programme's progress reports; UN Women report
Rwanda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 (79 women and 21 men) are part of local governance structures (village, cell, sector and NWC leadership structures) 			Implementing Partners and JP RWEE Annual Reports (2015-2020)
Output 3.4: Rural women, including young women have enhanced awareness on their rights in a more supportive community/local environment				
Ethiopia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17,246 (13,696 men and 3,550 women) participated in awareness raising on women's rights and related issues • 18,000 community members participated in sensitization training 			
Guatemala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 289 people (269 women and 20 men) from 14 groups trained in GALS methodology, who subsequently reached 121 additional people • 4,104 people (3,985 women and 119 men) trained to understand participation and decision-making mechanisms • 813 people (778 women and 35 men) received training on their rights 		Due to COVID-19 restrictions, it was not possible to develop the replication of the GALS methodology in the other households	"Support for the implementation of GALS in Guatemala Mrs. Ana Lucía Moreno / IFAD" Consultancy Reports) Participants' list: JP RWEE Reports; Photographs
Kyrgyzstan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11,634 beneficiaries (5,817 direct beneficiaries + 5,817 HH members) increased knowledge of their rights through GALS and awareness raising events • 413 direct participants (47 members of WPOs and 366 women in 56 SHGs) learned how to use BALI methodology for better livelihood planning and business development 		Target achieved	JP RWEE Annual reports; Implementing Partner's final reports
Liberia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 community listening clubs comprising of 900 young women beneficiaries were organized under 6 community peace huts in targeted counties • 1,658 men beneficiaries received masculinity training and these men were sensitized as male advocates to champion and support change 		Target overachieved due to demands from youth groups in project communities to engage more young women for their participation in community listeners' clubs	Reports from UN Women and MGCSP; Programme's progress reports

ANNEX ONE: PERFORMANCE INDICATOR TABLE

	Achievements		Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Output 3.4: Rural women, including young women have enhanced awareness on their rights in a more supportive community/local environment				
Nepal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4,315 rural women were sensitized on women’s human rights and GESI responsive approaches 1,312 rural women (18 female facilitators and 1,294 rural women) were reached by JP RWEE through weekly discussions on women’s human rights and GESI responsive approaches 2,353 rural women strengthened their capacity through a series of leadership in-person trainings and innovative radio programming 608 rural women champions and 961 family and community members (1,020 women and 549 men) trained on GALS 		Target overachieved as the JP RWEE team identified that it was important to sensitise rural women farmers on relevant topics on women’s human rights and GESI responsive approaches and to ensure their voice, agency and influence at the local level	Equal Access International’s report; GALS Assessment Report
Niger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2,400 women and girls and 1,200 men and boys are participating in community listening clubs 4 youth Dimitra Club networks were implemented and were operational 		Target achieved	Reports of the FAO Dimitra Programme; Programme’s progress reports; AEDL report
Rwanda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 360 (290 women and 70 men) trained on GALS methodology plus nutrition and climate change 8,150 (6112 women and 2038 men) sensitized on land rights and land management 118 beneficiaries (59 couples) trained as Trainers on Men Care Methodology 		The increase in numbers resulted from strong partnership with districts/local government and conducting sessions at decentralized levels reduced the budgets	Implementing Partners and JP RWEE Annual Reports (2015-2020)
Liberia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 community listening clubs comprising of 900 young women beneficiaries were organized under 6 community peace huts in targeted counties 1,658 men beneficiaries received masculinity training and these men were sensitized as male advocates to champion and support change 		Target overachieved due to demands from youth groups in project communities to engage more young women for their participation in community listeners’ clubs	Reports from UN Women and MGCSP; Programme’s progress reports
OUTCOME 4: A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women				
Indicator 4.1.1: Proportion of government budgets and donor funding allocated to programmes benefitting rural women				
Ethiopia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 			
Guatemala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 			
Kyrgyzstan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 35 local development work plans/budgets developed with integrated gender priorities, out of which 20 allocated a total of US\$ 12,500 from the annual budgets for gender-sensitive activities National GESI 2021-2030 developed and the costing exercise ongoing to define funding from government budgets and donor funds to benefit women, including rural women 			Annual reports JP RWEE; Implementing Partner’s final reports; National gender equality strategy for 2021-2030; National action plan for 2021-2024

ANNEX ONE: PERFORMANCE INDICATOR TABLE

	Achievements		Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
OUTCOME 4: A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women				
Indicator 4.1.1: Proportion of government budgets and donor funding allocated to programmes benefitting rural women				
Liberia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 			Reports from MGCSP and LLA; Programme's progress reports
Nepal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 38.65 % of federal government budget and donor funding for the fiscal year 2018/2019 were allocated to programmes benefitting rural women 			Government of Nepal's budget, fiscal year 2018/2019
Niger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0,01% on the overall period percentage of the national budget allocated to the Ministry of promoting women and protecting child 26.5% of the municipal budget, on average, allocated to programmes that benefit to the empowerment of rural women in the targeted councils 		The total amount has increased, but did not affect the percentage of the overall budget, which also increased every year	Follow-up report of the Directorate of studies and programming of the Ministry for the advancement of women and the protection of the child and government report
Rwanda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25% GoR Compliancy 		There have been some budget deficits over the years	Implementing Partners and JP RWEE Annual Reports (2015-2020)
Indicator 4.1.2: Number of countries passing laws to secure rural women's land ownership				
Ethiopia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender mainstreaming training manual at MOA developed Guideline on unpaid care work for government stakeholders Gender sensitive Cooperative Strengthening Manual of Federal cooperatives Agency (FCA) developed The JP RWEE has advocated for Land Compensation Regulation and succeeded in incorporating gender sensitivity provision 3 sectoral ministries incorporated gender related targets in their policies and plans and they are being cascaded to regional and district level institutions 			Reports from Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Agricultural Transformation Agency, and UN Women
Guatemala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 policy and 1 strategy that contribute to WEE (MAGA's Gender Unit and the implementation of the Institutional Policy for Gender Equality and its Strategy 2014-2023) Technical assistance to the National Institute of Statistics -INE- and the Presidential Secretariat for Women -SEPREM 			MAGA's reports; Agreements with governmental institutions; National mechanism related to the Specific Cabinet for Women (GEM), economic empowerment Area, INE's reports, SEPREM's reports "Valuation of unpaid work by households in Guatemala" (Unpaid work commission led by SEPREM)
Kyrgyzstan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 			

ANNEX ONE: PERFORMANCE INDICATOR TABLE

	Achievements		Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Indicator 4.1.2: Number of countries passing laws to secure rural women’s land ownership				
Liberia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Land Rights Act’ passed which strengthens rights over customary land regardless of gender and reinforces government’s commitment to advance women’s land rights, including granting of titles to land, joint titling and the equal distribution of land 			Programme’s progress reports
Nepal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The JP RWEE worked closely with the Ministry of Agriculture on a Gender Equality and Social Inclusion strategy (GESI) 			
Niger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Niger’s land policy adopted in 2021 with technical contribution of JP RWEE 			FAO, IFAD, and UN Women report
Rwanda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 (5 laws and 5 strategies) to secure rural women’s ownership over productive resources were strengthened • Development and review of the new Gender and Youth Mainstreaming --Strategy in Agriculture, the Law on Prevention of Gender Based Violence, and the Law on Matrimonial Regimes and Succession on Property supported 			Implementing Partners and JP RWEE Annual Reports (2015-2020)
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.				
Ethiopia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,434 (832 women and 602 men) experts of regional and district level BoWCAs, CPAs, BoAs, district and zonal administrations, women associations trained in gender mainstreaming and GRB, gender and leadership, and on revolving fund management 			Report from MoWCA, Federal Cooperative Agency, proceeding of the programme review meeting
Guatemala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 methodologies that contribute to women’s economic empowerment at the local level and comply with PNPDIM political guidelines. MAGA’s Gender Unit and the implementation of the Institutional Policy for Gender Equality and its Strategy 2014-2023) • 4 institutions (Municipalities (Municipal Women’s Directorates); Gender Unit MAGA; Executive Secretariat of the Presidency SCEP; Presidential Secretariat of the Presidency SEPREM) with initiatives that promote women’s economic rights in their programs, projects and activities 			MAGA Gender Unit’s Reports
Kyrgyzstan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 521, including 394 women local policy makers participated in learning and advocacy events on rural women’s empowerment 		Target overachieved due to the increased number of events, which were in the areas of interest of government partners	JP RWEE reports; Implementing Partner’s final reports; Database of conducted events and number of participants
Liberia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 Gender and 6 Agriculture County Coordinators and 12 extension officers from the MOA received capacity building in GRB to enable them mainstream gender into their implementation plans, strategies, and budgets • 50 gender focal points and budget officers (27 women and 23 men) from the MGCSP, MOA, and other relevant MACs were provided capacity training in GRB 		Target achieved	Reports from MoA, MGCSP, and MFDP, and other relevant MACS; Programme’s progress reports

ANNEX ONE: PERFORMANCE INDICATOR TABLE

	Achievements		Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
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.				
Nepal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical support provided to the review of GESI strategy of the ADS, endorsed by the MoALD on 20 June 2017 101 government officials/elected leaders (49 women and 52 men) enhanced knowledge on issues related to rural women farmers 		Target achieved	Partner's report
Niger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical review of the national nutrition security, the national gender policy and land policy 45 technicians of 12 NGOs (4 women); 28 technical staff (6 women); 4 district authorities (1 women); (1 Project) were regularly trained 97 senior staff at central, and communal levels trained on PBSG Staff at communal level: 7 women and 13 men Staff at central level: 33 women and 34 men 		Target achieved	Government report Action plan of implementing national gender policy, action plan of implementing national strategy of women's economic empowerment Programme's progress reports, national women day commemoration reports, FAO and UN Women training report's
Rwanda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 policy dialogue on the National Agriculture Policy (NAP) and its nexus with gender equality, Malabo Declaration 2 dissemination workshops for the women in value chain finance and gender analysis of the beans value chain and the SDGs for a Climate Smart Agriculture 799 (502 women and 297 men) local authorities increased their capacity on gender-responsive planning through awareness and training 			Implementing Partners and JP RWEE Annual Reports (2015-2020)
Liberia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 Gender and 6 Agriculture County Coordinators and 12 extension officers from the MOA received capacity building in GRB to enable them mainstream gender into their implementation plans, strategies, and budgets 50 gender focal points and budget officers (27 women and 23 men) from the MGCSP, MOA, and other relevant MACs were provided capacity training in GRB 		Target achieved	Reports from MoA, MGCSP, and MFDP, and other relevant MACS; Programme's progress reports
Output 4.2: Greater availability of tools and data to track progress in the economic empowerment of rural women				
Ethiopia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pro-WEAI pilot conducted Rapid assessment and a policy brief on Gender and Agricultural Mechanization published Research on "Costing the Gender Gap in Agricultural Productivity in Ethiopia" conducted Research on The Actual Benefit of Land Registration and Certification for Women: Beyond the Numbers conducted 			Data from BoWCYAs and Rural Land Administration and Use Directorate under Ministry of Agriculture
Guatemala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 tools developed for the improvement of services and advice on gender issues 5 criteria used to ensure women's access to services provided by institutions 2,812 civil servants (2,530 women and 282 men) trained 		Through MAGA gender unit, it was possible to implement 3 additional criteria to strengthen institutional capacity on gender and women empowerment. Planned target was overachieved due to the use of social platforms for virtual workshops due to the pandemic	WEAI report; Fact sheet; Methodology systematisation document

ANNEX ONE: PERFORMANCE INDICATOR TABLE

	Achievements		Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Output 4.2: Greater availability of tools and data to track progress in the economic empowerment of rural women				
Kyrgyzstan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pro-WEAI conducted Recommendations for 14 SDG indicators provided, indicator passport developed (gender statistic reports) (2017) Implementation of National Agricultural Census with improved gender disaggregation of data supported in 2016 			WEAI survey report; Annual reports of the Joint Programme “Accelerating progress towards women economic empowerment
Liberia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pro-WEAI conducted MOA in collaboration with the MGCSP conducted a situational analysis of gender and climate-resilient agriculture Situational analysis of the status of Village Savings and Loan Associations and Women in Cross Border Trade with a look at the impact of Ebola 			WEAI report; Reports of national statistical offices; Programme’s progress reports; Women and Climate Resilient Agriculture in Liberia: A Situational Analysis, Ministry of Agriculture, 2018; Situational analysis of the status of VSLAs and Women in Cross Border Trade
Nepal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pro-WEAI conducted 			WEAI study report
Niger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WEAI baseline and end-line studies Study on the labour force requirements of the agricultural sector in the regions of Dosso and Marad Study on women’s contributions in the household economy and market economy in the regions of Dosso and Maradi 		Target overachieved due to thematic studies carried out	Programme’s studies and progress reports
Rwanda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WEAI piloted and mainstreamed in National Statistics 1 analysis of limiting factors for women’s participation in the lucrative nodes of the dairy value chain conducted in collaboration with MINAGRI 1 documentary film on women empowerment realization have been produced 			WEAI Report, 2020; FAO report; Documentary film
Output 4.3: An enabling environment is promoted to reflect rural women’s priorities in regional policy processes.				
Ethiopia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly ‘Research Dissemination Forum’ established starting from December 2020 The National Network for Gender Equality in Agriculture was established 			
Guatemala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MAGA’s Gender Unit, which leads the Technical Board for Rural Development with a Focus on Gender and Peoples National Coalition for Women’s Economic Empowerment 			
Kyrgyzstan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 51 regional dialogue mechanisms conducted on promotion of women’s rights in regional and national policy processes 521 policymakers, including 394 women participated in dialogues 598 beneficiaries of JP RWEE participated in 52 dialogues 		Target overachieved due to the increased number of events, which were in the areas of interest of government partners	Annual reports JP RWEE; Implementing Partner’s final reports; Database on conducted events and number of participants



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