



Country programme workplan in the Kyrgyz Republic

April 2018

Total budget requested

US\$ 800,000

Beneficiaries to be reached with this contribution

Total direct beneficiaries from the beginning of the JP - 7,456, (6,480 women and 976 men) including:

- 2,731 (2,710 women and 21 men) directly
- 3064 people (2443 women, 621 men), through GALS/HHM

27,738 indirect beneficiaries (14,179 women and 13,559 men)

700 new beneficiaries in 2018-2019: 670 women and 30 men

Duration of project:

1 July 2018 – 30 September 2019

1. Background Information

Context

The Kyrgyz Republic is a landlocked mountainous country in Central Asia with a population of 6 million people. The vast majority of the population (65%) resides in rural areas. Kyrgyzstan's Human Development Index in 2015 has placed it 120th of 188 with a value of 0.664¹. About a third of the population lives below poverty line, and poverty is predominantly a rural phenomenon: 67.7% of all poor and 70.5% of all in extreme poverty live in rural areas. There is a growing gender gap in labour force participation, from 16% in 1990 to 27% in 2016.²

General lack of job opportunities in rural areas, coupled with lower level of education attainment among young rural women, in an environment of a growing influence of traditional stereotypes, confines them in the limits of their households. Share of women in the category of contributing family workers is increasing, which means rural women increasingly provide free labour on family farms, instead of engaging in paid employment. Rural women, especially young rural women, shoulder most of the unpaid reproductive duties in the households. They spend 2.6 times more time on domestic work, educating children, and helping relatives, than rural men³.

Limited access to basic utilities in rural areas, such as water supply, sewage, telephone, electricity and gas supply, particularly among poor households, further increases the burden of reproductive duties on women's shoulders.

¹ UNDP Human Development Report 2015.

² ibid

³ Men and women of Kyrgyz Republic 2015.

Finally, migration outflows of women and men from rural areas continue to put strain on the care economy depriving the old population and children of care in the absence of government-funded care services and infrastructure. This situation leads to further erosion of human capital and will have a long-term effect on the care economy of the country.

The fact that the poor households are characterized by lower stock of assets, including human capital, higher number of dependents, and higher reliance on natural resources, makes the rural poor more exposed and less resilient to economic, environmental and other shocks⁴.

The preparation of this Work Plan has coincided with an intensive process of localization of SDGs in Kyrgyzstan, and developing a strategy on SDGs 2030, as well as of a Roadmap to sustainable development 2040. The UN system's new UNDAF for 2018-2022 has been endorsed by the Government in May 2017. The proposed project is aligned with its priority theme 1 on Inclusive and sustainable economic growth, where rural women's economic empowerment is one of the strategies of the UN, as well as the other three priorities by improving rural women's access to decision-making and local governance (Priority 2); improving their resilience to disaster and climate change induced risks (Priority 3); and better access to social services (Priority 4)⁵.

The programme has been designed as a 5-year initiative with a total budget of 5 million USD for 2012-2017. The first allocation was received in 2014 from the Government of Norway followed by a funding from SIDA in 2015 through end 2017. With the confirmed funding of 800,000 USD for June 2018 – September 2019 the Program intends to replicate and upscale the best practices gained over the period of three years.

Rationale

To provide a coordinated and coherent response to multidimensional challenges faced by rural women, in 2012 UN Women joined with the World Food Programme, Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Fund for Agriculture Development to launch a global Joint Programme on Accelerating Progress towards Economic Empowerment of Rural Women (JP RWEE).

The partnership of four UN agencies has allowed for a multi-dimensional and mutually reinforcing approach to economic empowerment of rural women using their comparative advantage and expertise: FAO's technical assistance on agricultural technology and extension support; IFAD's experience in innovative approaches for M&E and household development; WFP's food assistance and nutrition interventions and value chain development; and UN Women's technical expertise on women's economic empowerment, and its policy work for gender-responsive environment.

Design of the JP interventions was informed by USAID-funded Women Empowerment in Agriculture Index survey in 2014, which served as a baseline, and provided information across five empowerment dimensions: production, resources, income, leadership, and time. Rural women in Kyrgyzstan have reported the highest disempowerment rates across the following areas: income (access to decisions on credit – 34.8%), leadership (group membership – 30.8%, speaking in public – 9.7%), time (workload – 19%), production (ownership of assets – 13.5%). Accordingly, the JP interventions have focused on providing access to affordable starting capital in their communities through establishment of Revolving Funds; to work through women's self-help groups and strengthen women's activism at the community level, as well as public speaking skills for candidates to local councils; to use household methodologies for joint planning and negotiation of fairer distribution of care work within households; and building skills for running income-generating activities, and provision of high quality inputs for increased agricultural productivity.

The proposed strategy builds on the implementation of JP RWEE in 2014-2017 integrating lessons learnt, best practices from Kyrgyzstan and other JP RWEE countries, and aligning with the changes in the national policy framework. It is proposed to upscale coverage of the JP and include 700 new beneficiaries (670 women and 30

⁴ World Bank Systematic Country Diagnostic Kyrgyz Republic 2017

⁵ United Nations Development Assistance Framework in the Kyrgyz Republic 2018-2022

men); to replicate the models of providing on-farm and off-farm productive employment opportunities, through climate resilience technologies, increasing rural women's participation in local development planning, and strengthen policy support at the macroeconomic level to better integrate measures to empower rural women in national policy documents.

The Programme targets the vulnerable rural women identified through participatory poverty pyramid methodology,⁶ living beyond the national poverty line. A special focus will be given to female-headed households, young rural women, women who have disabled children, and other women facing multiple forms of discrimination.

As concluded by the Program Evaluation,⁷ the JP RWEE design had an explicit focus of alignment with national strategic documents in the areas of gender equality, agriculture, food security and sustainable development. JP RWEE is also well aligned with the Agenda 2030: the programme contributes towards implementation of 10 targets under 7 SDGs. The JP RWEE design and results are well-aligned with the needs of its target beneficiaries, rural women. The programme component that is most valued by rural women is agricultural training delivered by professionals. The Evaluation also noted the barriers preventing women to participate and benefit from the JP RWEE. In the next phase the Programme is to reconsider selection criterion to make them more inclusive with an aim to target the poor who were left behind by the previous phase (those potential beneficiaries who do not have enough land, are not able to work on the land due to disability or have to take care of small children and children with disability, etc). Another lesson learnt from the Evaluation was that women reported they had less time for leisure since involvement in income generating activities. The rollout of the GALs will provide an opportunity to further explore the affecting factors and address them.

Results achieved

The JP RWEE is being implemented in Kyrgyzstan in 73 villages across five provinces: Osh, Jalabad, Batken, Chuy and Naryn. The Programme to date has directly assisted 2,731 women and men, indirectly improving livelihoods of 27,738 (14,179 women and 13,559 men)⁸ rural residents, family members of the Programme participants. Some of the main results achieved so far include:

- 2,712 women in 45 villages are engaged in productive and sustainable agriculture with productivity increase of 30-70%, average additional income of 488 USD per agricultural season. Of them 805 women are running small businesses achieving an average of 29.5% increase in income. This is expected to improve livelihoods of rural women, increasing their resilience to food and economic crises, and invest in the health and education of their family members;
- 125 new self-help groups with 1,000 women, have been established in 28 villages, thus reaching a total of 379 self-help groups, 73 community funds in 45 villages, with total savings fund over 1,5 mln KGS (approx. US\$21,900); two women's cooperatives and two women's associations established, and started providing services to at least 1,500 women-members to access inputs, extension support, finance from its revolving capital, information, and joint marketing. These organizations will allow for joint procurement of inputs, joint processing of the produce and better negotiation power with value chain actors. Cumulative revolving capital of the four organizations is over 107,000 USD, which is used for funding self-help group based business initiatives of rural women;
- 63% reduction of share of households with 'poor' or 'borderline' Food Consumption Score, and Dietary

⁶ Participatory poverty pyramid methodology is one of the instruments of the Participatory Rural Appraisal to select the target group in a community. It allows identification of the poor based on jointly agreed specific criterion for a particular community.

⁷ A final evaluation of the JP RWEE was conducted in early 2018 with a special focus on lessons learnt both from programmatic and coordination perspectives. The main purpose of this final evaluation was to assess in more detail the programmatic progress and performance of the above described intervention from the point of view of relevance, effectiveness, impact, organizational efficiency and sustainability.

⁸ The data from the Programme 2017 Annual Report.

Diversity Score increased from 6 to 7 food items, adding the categories of vegetables to the regular diet of rural families;

- 28 public awareness campaigns conducted by rural women at community and district levels reached over 3,000 people on topics such as violence against women, reproductive rights and health, early marriages, etc. The campaigns through participatory tools, such as forum theatres, were aimed to challenge gender stereotypes and eliminating harmful practices in communities;
- 32 women elected as members of local councils out of 93 trained. These women were capacitated to meaningfully participate in the decision-making and influence allocation of local resources for gender needs and priorities;
- 15 gender-responsive local development strategies were developed for 2017-2030 out of 34 target municipalities. These strategies were developed through inclusive consultative processes ensuring integration of needs and priorities of all population groups;
- 12 social initiatives implemented to reduce women's unpaid care burden through improved access to information, Internet, better child care facilities, access to electricity, improved road conditions, and IT training facilities in communities. These initiatives are to benefit 12,549 people, including 6,726 women. Co-funding of 43.5% was provided by local governments, communities and private sector;
- 43 champions trained on an innovative household strategy – Gender Action Learning System (GALS), and reached out to 3064 people (2443 women, 621 men) to influence gender power relations towards more equitable distribution of care work, and life free of violence;
- Legislation on social insurance tariffs was amended to remove discriminatory provisions for rural women and smallholders. An increase of social insurance tariffs for rural smallholders by up to 20 times had led to households consolidating land plots and registering the title on one family members' name, which was traditionally a man. Hence, there was a threat for women of losing land titles in favour of men to avoid the burden of increased tariffs. The new amendments have incorporated proposed recommendations and brought the tariff rates to the previous levels;
- Rural women participated in lobbying for two legislative initiatives: a) banning child marriage and b) introduction of a gender quota in local councils. The latter was brought to discussion at three high-level events, The First Forum of Women-Members of Local Councils in January 2017, National Women's Forum in March 2017, and the National Rural Women's Day in June 2017. These events provided a platform for a dialogue of rural women with key Government representatives on the challenges, priorities and recommendations for improving rural women's participation in national development processes.
- Gender analysis of agricultural strategies and policies was undertaken, based on which recommendations were provided to the Ministry of Agriculture to strengthen human dimension of agricultural policies; technical assistance provided to the process of SDG indicators' localization in the agricultural sector, specifically in identifying the local data available and proposing possible indicators for SDGs related to the agricultural sector.
- Donor meeting was held in June 2017 with follow-up bilateral meetings with the potential donors. A set of visibility products prepared, including short videos for social media, a brochure with human stories, infographics visualizing programme approach and key results, leaflets summarizing the programme approach under different outcomes.
- JP RWEE was included in the Country Programme Evaluation of UN Women Country Office and the findings were shared widely with national partners and donors.

During the period from July 2018 through September 2019 the JP RWEE partners intend to further consolidate the results focusing on the capacitation of the rural women's groups to continue their economic activities

successfully beyond the programme life, and scale up the project to cover 700 new beneficiaries (670 women and 30 men) in new geographical locations to achieve greater self-replication impact. The partners will continue working on the improving policy environment with key national stakeholders to ensure national ownership and replication of rural women's economic empowerment approaches and mechanisms based on the best practices demonstrated by the project results and following the recent in-country evaluation recommendations.

2. Project area and target groups

With this contribution, the JP RWEE participating agencies will continue working with the previous 2731 (2,710 women and 21 men) beneficiaries to ensure their sustainability. In order to scale up, the JP will work with new 700 beneficiaries (670 women and 30 men) in about 14 new villages in Osh, Jalalabad and Batken provinces and reach new geographical locations where similar type of interventions on economic empowerment of rural women have not been implemented by other development agencies. It is expected that new villages will be close to those villages already covered in the previous phase of the Programme, so the new participants would be within easy reach by Programme activists and champions for social mobilization and mentorship. The expansion of the activities in the South of the country is aligned with existing needs – Osh and Jalalabad are the two most food insecure provinces with the highest scores of “priority for interventions” as confirmed by the Evaluation. Beneficiary selection criteria are described below. In line with the initial plan to cover 6500 beneficiaries under the project, the above number of beneficiaries will be covered based on the available budget.

Targeting strategy and beneficiary selection criteria:

After community meetings with vulnerable rural women to introduce the project, potential female beneficiaries will be selected from a list provided by social workers and heads of the villages who register the poor and vulnerable households in their villages in need for assistance. These households will be recommended according to the following criteria:

Inclusion criteria:

1) Primary criteria: HH Income levels

Criterion: Households living below the national extreme poverty line.

Justification: The extreme poverty line (or food poverty line) is set at the monetary value covering the costs of obtaining 2,100 kcal per person per day. Those households living below the food poverty line are facing the risk of food insecurity and highly vulnerable to external shocks.

Validation: The recommended beneficiaries are randomly surveyed by WFP's monitoring specialist to check consistency of the beneficiary information and selection criteria.

2) Gender

As this project is aimed at the rural women's economic empowerment, women are the primary project beneficiaries, but men will be engaged as well, in particular in GALS activity.

3) Geographical location

The geographical locations will be identified based on WFP's Integrated Context Analysis tool by overlaying several indicators such as high poverty rates (poverty prevalence over 30%), high level of exposure to natural shocks and disasters (including climatic shocks), with the lenses on agricultural production per capita. Targeting on locations with low or medium level of agricultural production is important as one of the main component of the Programme is to provide agricultural inputs for vegetable production activity and knowledge and skills to project participants for improving agricultural practices in order to strengthen their resilience to various social and economic shocks through increasing opportunities for off-farm income

generation sources. In order to ensure mentorship support from current activists to new beneficiaries, closeness to the districts previously covered by the Programme is important.

4) Availability and willingness to participate in project activities

Criterion: There should be a balance of families with limited ability to provide labour force and families with free labour force to participate in the project. This threshold will be set individually for each activity. The suggested criteria is that for each project, the local project committees will be requested to prepare the list of “poor”, using three main categories:

A) Households IN a position to provide labour force (either unemployed in family or family member performing only temporary jobs)

B) Households NOT IN a position to provide labor force as they have a stable occupation, however, the income from occupation does not guarantee them minimum income to overcome food poverty

C) Households NOT IN a position to provide labor force at all due to reasons of being single headed household, disabled, pensioners with eligible dependents

D) Households WITH more than 5 children in the family

The same ratio will be requested to be applied for the selection of project participants and works to be distributed according to the ability of each group/category accordingly. This should guarantee full representation of all different poor/vulnerable groups in the communities.

Validation: these recommended beneficiaries are randomly surveyed by WFP’s monitoring specialist to check consistency of the beneficiary information and selection criteria.

Exclusion criteria:

5) Productive asset ownership

Criterion: Households who own the following productive assets should be excluded: four-wheel vehicles (cars, trucks, minibuses etc.), shops and workshops and other small businesses. In remote areas where vehicles are an essential means for livelihoods (for example for reaching remote pastures), vehicles can be excluded from the criteria.

Justification: Four-wheel vehicles, shops and workshops and other small business are productive assets that can provide small to medium scale business.

6) Number of livestock

Criterion: Households who have a large number of livestock should be excluded. However, the thresholds should be adjusted in the areas where livestock is the only livelihood source, in consultation with communities. For example criteria from Government social assistance measures can be used where Households with less than 10 members can have a maximum of 3 cows/bulls OR 25 sheep/goats whilst Households with 10 or more members a maximum of 4 cows/bulls OR 35 sheep/goats.

Justification: Livestock is the main household and productive asset for many rural households. Households who own a large number of livestock can better cope with external shocks by exchanging them for cash or food. Exceptions could be made on a case-by-case basis, if it is observed/confirmed, that household is still in the extreme need and is food insecure (if animals’ productivity is very poor, if this is the only income source or if household members have special needs).

3. Description of activities by component

Under this new phase, the agencies will be focusing on ensuring the sustainability and replication of project's results along with scaling up to new beneficiaries. The sustainability strategy will include activities to guide the beneficiaries to form registered entities so that these formal organizations could develop further on their own beyond the life of the project.

The focus of the activities targeting the previous 2731 beneficiaries (2,710 women and 21 men) will be placed on building the sustainability of results achieved so far and will be under the responsibility of UN Women, with IFAD supporting the GALS component. These will include:

- helping established Producer Organisations (PO) to further strengthen their organizational capacity and independence and find mechanisms that would allow for increasing the amount of the revolving funds and generating enough revenue;
- Strengthening the capacity of 1000 beneficiaries mobilized in 2017 in farm management, business planning, and marketing, as well as leadership, social and economic activism, strengthening the growth and use of their revolving funds; as well as
- Introducing Gender Action Learning System (GALS) methodology and building their capacity on cooperatives' formation.

To achieve these objectives, activists and champions among the self-help groups will be selected, trained and guided through constant coaching so that they lead these self-help groups to ensure sustained and continued social and economic empowerment of these women. Moreover, efforts will be placed in consolidating the correct use of GALS tools with already-targeted beneficiaries, providing monitoring and support to champions and peer-learners – especially those at the third level. To ensure the institutionalization and capacity development of local authorities, these activities will be conducted in close cooperation, coordination and engagement of sub-district heads and social workers. The aim is that they will then be able to support these self-help groups and replicate rural women's economic empowerment activities through social mobilization.

Additional **new 670 women and 30 men** will be mobilized in order to scale up the project and reach new villages for the wider replication purpose. These new beneficiaries will be capacitated in agricultural technologies (crops, livestock, poultry, crafts, etc), including application of innovative and labour-saving technologies, and basics of business planning, management and marketing. They will be provided with innovative food assistance, including provision of food, nutrition awareness and training in financial literacy, skills training and business startup. The basic social mobilization of new groups will include linking them to existing Self Help Groups (SHGs), their associations, POs so that they can learn and benefit from their experience. Specifically:

UN WOMEN will:

- Conduct social mobilization, capacity building and support the integration of GALS activities (in close collaboration with IFAD) through the trained pool of GALS champions for these new groups and work on forming them and the previous 1000 beneficiaries into cooperatives;
- Develop a Social Mobilization Guide Book and conduct a series of activities on disseminating the best practices on social mobilization as identified by the JP RWEE experience among the relevant authorities and population through workshops, information materials and mass media (jointly with WFP and FAO);
- Promote rural women's participation and leadership in local communities, rural producer organizations and local governance systems, leveraging rural women's voice and influence at different levels of decision making;
- Raise awareness among communities (women and men) on rural women's economic rights through trainings, media, dialogues platforms, consultations, etc;
- Facilitate networking of rural women's organizations at sub-national and national levels, and their stronger links with women's movement for better information exchange, advocacy, coordination and participation in national policy and decision-making processes;



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



Investing in rural people



wfp.org



- Involve and partner with local government in community-level activities – studies, needs assessment, planning and implementation;
- Strengthen capacity of national partners (local and national levels) for the implementation of policies advancing women's economic empowerment, including through awareness building and advocacy with parliamentarians, and other relevant stakeholders.

IFAD will:

- Continue rolling out Household methodologies, and in particular GALS, with the introduction of new tools, through the trained pool of GALS champions using groups as a delivery channel. It is expected that GALS champions will potentially reach out to up to 4,725 women and men in their communities. The existing 3064 people (2443 women, 621 men) will receive new tools on livelihood development and the new 700 beneficiaries (670 women and 30 men) will receive the basic tools.
- Conduct the endline survey for the JP RWEE using the Women Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI). The WEAI is an innovative, survey-based methodology allowing to measure women's empowerment across different dimensions, comparing it to that of men: i) decisions about agricultural production, ii) access to and decision-making power over productive resources iii) control over use of income, iv) leadership in the community, and v) time use. The WEAI will i) generate the evidence base for the policy engagement with government authorities, with the aim to ensure continuous commitment and support ii) assess progress made by the JP RWEE on rural women's empowerment, measuring achievements in different empowerment domains as compared to the baseline made available by USAID. III) contribute to the JP final evaluation by enriching the programme endline information and provide detailed information as to the dimensions of empowerment supported by programme interventions. The process of WEAI will include survey adaptation, data collection in the field, data cleansing and analysis. WEAI results will enable cross- country comparisons across JP RWEE countries, contributing the programme's global dimension.

FAO will conduct agricultural training and provide inputs to 700 new beneficiaries (670 women and 30 men) while at the same time continue to support some of the beneficiaries reached previously through:

- provision of agricultural tools (mini-plastic tunnel greenhouses) for all of beneficiaries and drip irrigation equipment for 14 demonstration plots in pilot villages
- provision of high quality seeds of vegetable crops such as tomato, cucumber, pepper, cauliflower, broccoli, sweet corn, carrot, onion, cabbage
- conduct trainings on vegetable production technologies with basics of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), trainings on fruit and vegetable processing technologies in home conditions, trainings on irrigation water saving technologies;
- conduct trainings on poultry production technologies, rural crafts, and farm management and business planning and marketing of women's' produce;
- provision of technical support for beneficiaries by trainers/agronomists (agronomical consultancy) during the cropping season;
- organize Field Days for beneficiaries and farmers in each oblast as well as Experience Exchange Visits between Self-Help Groups (SHGs);

WFP will conduct Food for training activities for the new 700 beneficiaries (670 women and 30 men), which will include the following:

- Providing fortified wheat flour and vegetable oil for the beneficiaries for their participation in training activities Nutrition training and awareness raising through conducting refresher nutrition training for Village Health Committee members in the new 14 RWEE pilot villages by Republican Health Promotion unit, who will then conduct the training for the new project participants. Reprinting of available nutrition materials to distribute to Village Health Committees and project participants.

Small business development (SME) will include:

- Needs based skills training in various income generation areas such as baking, sewing, poultry farming, quail farming, value chain development in silk production, biscuit production, etc. Skills training are very important and necessary for the rural women, as the agricultural production is seasonal and women are often unemployed during the off-season. Therefore, it is necessary to train them in the needs-driven income generation areas and help them to start small business activities to build their resilience to current and future economic shocks through empowering them economically.
- Financial literacy and business planning. The financial literacy training for the previous groups showed that the financial knowledge of households in the regions is very low - they do not do family budget planning, do not plan their expenses, incomes and spending efficiently and often end up indebted. Financial literacy and business planning training will help the women farmers to plan effectively their agricultural activities as well as start small-scale businesses within small self-help groups of 5-6 persons.
- Support and guidance in launching small business initiatives by self-help groups. Following the needs based skills training and business planning training the self-help groups of 5-6 persons will develop business plans on launching small business initiatives with the help of Cooperating Partner, who will help with guidance in launching their businesses. The groups will create and develop joint revolving funds where they will contribute monthly amount of money. These revolving funds will be used for investing into their income generation business activity. WFP will provide increased ration of food to the project participants, but the participants will be encouraged to return 30% of the cost of the food rations to their Revolving Funds to be invested for their business activity.

To deliver greater development outcomes to rural women, all agencies will jointly engage in policy activities at the national level. This will include contribution and support to the ongoing process of SDGs localization, the development of the Food Security and Nutrition Policy (2018-2020), the Agricultural Development Strategy, the State Program of Rural Development, the Programme on Social Protection. Specifically, the support provided will focus on mainstreaming gender into sub-sectoral policies and programmes to ensure women and men have equal access to productive resources, organizations, technologies, markets, decent employment and social protection, and that they participate and benefit equally from agricultural services and opportunities. The Programme activities will also contribute to the priority activities of the National Action Plan on Gender Equality 2018-2020 and on the organization of learning events, nationwide campaigns, special events (Rural Women's Conference, International Rural Women's Day, 16 days of Activism against GBV etc).

4. Implementation approach

JP participating agencies will use, to the extent possible, an institutional approach in implementing its activities.

UN WOMEN has successfully led the social mobilization process of previous groups bringing it is expertise in the field through building the capacity of local NGOs and activists. For the mobilization of the new groups, UN WOMEN will use a similar approach of engaging NGOs to build capacity of project participants (through trainings and coaching) who would act as champions and will guide and support the rest of the participants. Active participants among the previously mobilized groups will be also trained to lead the organizational development of women's organizations established under previous phases and the new organizations to be created to ensure effective operation of those organizations beyond the programme lifespan. In conducting these activities, the close cooperation with local authorities and the engagement of social workers, which WFP started last year for previous groups, will be continued in order to ensure the support and replication of these approaches by the local institutions. UN WOMEN will also bring its expertise in the area of gender mainstreaming, raising awareness of project participants as well as strengthening their capacities in leadership and social, economic and political activism. The creation of a gender-sensitive legal and policy framework will continue to be another

priority area of engagement for UN WOMEN jointly with other UN partner.

WFP will build on its comparative advantage and expertise to continue its innovative food assistance activities, including nutrition training, value chain and income generation activities with an aim to strengthen beneficiaries' food security and resilience to economic shocks. During the previous stages of the project, WFP had supported the revision of nutrition modules in the country and development of unified nutrition training module by nutrition experts jointly with the Republican Health Promotion Centre with the aim to institutionalise them. This module will be used in conducting trainings through Village Health Committees. WFP will support the Republican Health Promotion Centre to conduct nutrition refresher training to Village health committees and regional health promotion units and to print out nutrition materials. The approach to conduct this nutrition training through village health committees is being applied in order to ensure the sustainability of disseminating nutrition knowledge to community beyond the project.

Small business development activities, which include skills training, financial literacy and business planning training as well as guidance and coaching in identifying and running the business initiative will be conducted by an NGO, who will guide the groups from the very beginning through identifying their needs for income generation activity and conducting necessary training and mentoring with small business development.

Food distribution will be organised in partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Social Development and monitored by WFP Field Monitoring Assistants.

FAO's agricultural support interventions were described as of critical importance for project beneficiaries by the recent evaluation, as agricultural production is a key income source for almost all project beneficiaries. FAO's agricultural activities, including provision of high quality seeds, equipment and training, will be focused on providing the project participants with knowledge and skills in advanced agricultural technologies to enable increased income and reduced losses from the agricultural production. Agricultural training and extension support will be delivered through local service providers with a proven track record in such services, combining theory and practice. Agronomists who are experienced trainers will be consulted as needed throughout the agricultural season, so that the beneficiaries will be given recommendations on keeping record of the harvest of vegetables and related income in the form of a diary. Demonstration plots will also be organized to showcase advanced methods of growing vegetables, such as drip irrigation (water-saving technologies, etc.) and integrated pest management (IPM). Finally, field days and exchange visits will be held for farmers to exchange experiences in each of the pilot villages.

IFAD's GALS activities have been found very important by the JP RWEE evaluation to achieve more equitable intra-household relationship through various exercises involving all household members. GALS roll out and scale up will therefore be organised through the trained pool of GALS champions, with M&E and training support by a local, specialised NGO in collaboration with UN Women. The implementation of the WEAI will be conducted by a specialized survey company, which will support questionnaire adaptation, field testing, training of enumerators and data collection. An econometrician will analyse results and calculate the index, producing a user-friendly report that will inform programme management and the overall results of the JP RWEE at global level.

5. Justification for the intervention

In selecting the suggested activities for this phase of the project, the JP RWEE country team took under careful consideration previous years' achievements, best practices and lessons learned, rural women's identified needs, the preliminary results of the programme evaluation, as well as recommendations from the headquarters.

Both during the Programme implementation and the evaluation process there was a big interest amongst the existing participants for the continuation of the project and among the local authorities and women in the regions on mobilizing new beneficiaries for the project as the latter witnessed the positive impact the project was bringing into the beneficiaries' lives.

Activities on social mobilization, including the creation of SHGs and revolving funds showed that women became confident to engage in joint economic activities to improve their livelihoods and actively participate in social, cultural and political lives of the communities. The JP will engage well experienced Cooperating Partner to train and coach champions and activists amongst the project participants to lead the social mobilization process, as the evaluation findings and lessons learned showed that relying on the local government institutions solely may not always bring desired results as the latter does not have enough institutional and human capacity yet. However, the development of a guidebook on social mobilization and dissemination amongst the relevant local and national government actors will increase ownership and encourage replication.

The evaluation also showed that the agricultural support to rural women such as training and provision of inputs were found as the most important activity as it enabled them to improve their skills and knowledge in agricultural production and increase their income. Therefore, this activity has been selected for the new beneficiaries along with training and coaching in small business development so that they could engage in off-farm income generation activities to have additional income sources outside the agricultural season. JP partners also plan to provide basic processing equipment to allow programme participants to start adding value to their agricultural produce, and moving women's groups up the value chain also thanks to GALS tools designed to help women members to vision and implement improvements in their income generating activities.

During 2016 and 2017, nutrition training conducted by regional health promotion units and Village Health Committees have been largely commended as highly successful also thanks to its institutionalisation; to strengthen it so it can benefit a larger public than targeted beneficiaries, during this phase refresher training in nutrition for regional health promotion unit specialists and village health committees will be conducted.

Food and nutrition assistance that consisted of provision of fortified wheat flour and enriched vegetable oil as well as nutrition training has been vital for the beneficiaries and their families in strengthening their food security and nutrition and improving their diets in light of the malnutrition issues that the population of the country faces, including chronic and acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiency⁹. It has also served as a good incentive for the women to fully commit their times to participate in the project activities without having to worry about how to feed their families. The JP intends to address some of these food insecurity and malnutrition issues amongst vulnerable female participants through its food assistance and nutrition awareness interventions.

It is expected that the established 4 women's organizations at provincial level will continue providing services to at least 1,500 rural women in accessing revolving funds, quality agricultural inputs, extension services, and joint processing and marketing. JP will support the organizational capacities of these organizations to effectively administer revolving funds for the diversification of livelihoods of its members through offering access to capital for off-farm business activities, in order to secure stable income throughout the year, beyond the limited agricultural season of 6 months. Practical work of linking these organizations with value chain actors will be carried out, establishing a database of members, their assets, production capacities and updated regularly to allow informed negotiations with processors and wholesalers. Along with strengthening the capacity of these 4 women's organizations, the JP will also guide the remaining 1000 and new 700 beneficiaries how to form into formal associations to promote their self-reliance in accessing productive assets, financial resources, and generating income.

More generally, the evaluation showed that adding Household Methodologies into the implementation model increases considerably the positive impact on women empowerment, promote the reduction, recognition and redistribution of unpaid domestic work: this is why GALS will be an integral part of JP RWEE implementation model on a community level. The JP will also work with the government to identify good practices and lessons learned of the JP RWEE model of holistic, integrated support for the economic empowerment of rural women so

⁹ Micronutrient deficiency is a major issue in the country with 35% of women of reproductive age diagnosed with anaemia; it is even more alarming among children under 5 years old, with 43%. The problem of iodine deficiency is another challenge, with 62% of pregnant women and 43% of school age women suffering from it.

it can be upscaled and replicated. The national and local government and non-governmental entities working in the public sector will therefore be better involved into the programme's planning and implementation to ensure higher sense of ownership of the JP RWEE. Local NGOs and social workers will be engaged as partners to support social mobilization, training activities implemented by other parties and assist in monitoring programme results at local level.

6. Sustainability

As elaborated above, the JP partners have focused on sustainability from the onset of programming and will continue making efforts towards this end also in this phase. The programme has designed its sustainability strategy at three levels: individual level, community and local government level, and national level.

Thus, at the individual level the sustainability will be strengthened with the upscaling of GALS tools through community leaders, using the participatory methodologies pyramid-learning scheme to reach more people. GALS is also aimed at engaging all family members in the discussion of a happy family without discrimination and abuse, better livelihoods planning and increasing incomes through exploring market opportunities. Moreover, the GALS methodology will allow putting knowledge of financial literacy and business trainings into practice in a simple form.

Interventions to promote individual level sustainability under this work plan also include the provision of business and financial planning and skills training in income generation areas, and guiding and mentoring small business start-up in demand-driven areas.

At the community level, self-help groups will continue operating savings funds, which primarily serve as a social insurance scheme in case of emergencies in families, but can also be used as affordable small loans for business needs of group members. Rural women in the target villages will have access to revolving funds and established women's cooperatives, and associations, which will also allow them to jointly process their produce, jointly market, and have a higher negotiating power within the value chains. The institutionalization of women's organizations at the community and provincial levels will increase joint value chain opportunities, and improve their representation with local governments through collective agency. Revolving funds at the community level will serve to provide access to affordable financial capital for agricultural and non-agricultural business activities of its members.

Fifteen local governments in target areas, which have now the capacity to engage rural women and promote their needs and priorities in decision-making processes, will continue to use gender-responsive development plans until 2030, with more women represented in the local councils.

At the national level, trainings on nutrition, Value Chain Development (VCD), and financial literacy are being delivered through ToT modality using local government officials and village health committee members as trainers; the aim is to promote further sharing of this knowledge beyond the Programme lifespan. Furthermore, training modules on nutrition have been institutionalized with the Republican Centre for Health Improvement, and will be used for training village health committee members and replicate it elsewhere in the country.

Legislative initiatives and regulatory changes being lobbied through rural women will also continue influencing the lives of women and girls into the future. As an example, the issue of a gender quota in the Local Council's Election Code is being lobbied due to decreasing representation of women in these institutions and will receive support from the JP similarly to what happened with the public hearing on "Social Insurance Tariffs" and the campaign to ban early marriages in 2017.

Given the particular context of the country with deteriorated infrastructure of services (extension services and business incubators in rural areas are almost absent), lack of social support services and local finance to support pilot initiatives, the Programme aims to build stronger partnership and networking with local and national stakeholders (government, development partners, private sector, business associations, educational institutions, CSOs etc.) for information dissemination about good practices. Knowledge products (Manual on Social



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



Investing in rural people



wfp.org



Mobilization, GALS methodology) will be shared with relevant stakeholders. The Programme will facilitate better links to other POs, service providers, and business associations, trade unions, and other relevant networks for further institutional development of the organizations as business entities, and/or advocacy groups, to strengthen their voice and agency.

Resource Mobilization

To achieve the above-mentioned objectives and goals, the JP intends to make further efforts and actions to raise funding for the project. The project partners already organized a donor conference on resource mobilization for the project late 2017 in Bishkek and continue to follow-up with relevant donor organizations (including development agencies, international Finance Institutions and Embassies at country and regional levels) bilaterally to mobilize additional financial support for the project. The JP is also seeking partnerships with other relevant projects in order to strengthen the institutional development and sustainability of the established groups through the creation of linkages with other government and development activities. As an example, one of the implementing partner of the JP, the NGO CDA, has raised funds from the Australian Embassy (approx. USD 5,147 - 350,000 KGS) and the Asian Development Bank (approx. USD 4,998 - 339,834 KGS) for training and providing financial support to start-up businesses created in the framework of the JP RWEE. Furthermore, the collaboration with the NGO Fair and Sustainable Development Solutions has been key to further strengthen the institutional capacity of women's organizations through a series of trainings conducted in 2017. Partnership with them will be continued.

7. Monitoring & Evaluation

Monitoring activities will involve both the outcome and the output levels: monitoring at output level is to be conducted at least quarterly, while it will take place bi-annually at outcome level. Every agency involved has its own monitoring system according to which they monitor the progress and targets achieved.

For example, WFP will conduct beneficiary verification monitoring, baseline monitoring for food security indicators, and food distribution monitoring through its field monitoring assistants as well as post food distribution monitoring through an external company. The latter helps collect and analyze data on food security indicators such as food consumption score, dietary diversity, percentage of beneficiaries, as well as other qualitative information on the decision making in the household over use of food, quality of project interventions, etc.

IFAD will carry out the Women Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) survey to measure effectiveness and inform on the impact of programme intervention on the target group across five dimensions of empowerment (see para 3). The WEAI survey is expected to enable a comparison before and after the programme intervention as well as cross-country analysis among the seven countries of JP RWEE intervention.

FAO will conduct monitoring by collecting information on yield and crop area which can be disaggregated by beneficiary, village, districts and province levels. The aggregated data can be compared with the data of the National Statistics Committee. Beyond the quantitative data on agricultural production, monitoring will also involve understanding the agricultural practices of the farmers and whether they apply new technologies provided by the Programme, and the social and economic well-being of farmers through interviews and observation.

UN Women will collect information against all others set indicators in the work plan (for instance, with regard to leadership or access to income) and provide overall coordination for the preparation of monitoring reports.

The JP RWEE in Kyrgyzstan will also build on the results of GALS implementation (for the first time in Central Asia) to measure and analyse qualitative changes: women's self-confidence and empowerment, ability to engage in income-generating activities, changing gender-based power dynamics within the household, leadership skills, etc.

Participating UN agencies will conduct special meetings to follow-up on the results of the quarterly joint monitoring missions and report on them. The agencies will also conduct monthly coordination meetings to monitor ongoing activities and discuss future plans. The members of the National Steering Committee are always invited to join the quarterly joint monitoring missions as well as other important field activities and events together with project partners.

Financial monitoring is to be conducted on a monthly basis for effective financial managements and monitoring delivery targets.

8. Budget

PROGRAMME BUDGET					
CATEGORY	FAO	IFAD	WFP	UN WOMEN	TOTAL
1. Staff and Other Personnel Cost (cannot exceed 10%)	18,000	15,000	11,131	33,600	77,731
2. Supplies, Commodities, Materials	31,676	0	56,185	0	87,861
3. Equipment, Vehicles and Furniture including Depreciation	24,500	0	0	8,200	32,700
4. Contractual Services	59,050	138,224	0	186,191	383,465
5. Travel	16,000	15,000	7,000	15,000	53,000
6. Transfers and Grants Counterparts	0	0	94,698	0	94,698
7. General Operating and Other Direct Costs	18,998				18,998
Total Programme Costs	168,224	168,224	169,014	242,991	748,453
8. Indirect Support Costs (cannot exceed 7%)	11,776	11,776	10,986	17,009	51,547
TOTAL	180,000	180,000	180,000	260000	800000

9. Names and signatures of participating UN organizations

  (On behalf of FAO)	Name: Mr. Dorjee Kinlay Title: FAO Representative Date: 18.05.2018
 (On behalf of IFAD)	Name: Mikael Kauttu Title: Programme Officer Date: 24 May 2018
  (On behalf of WFP)	Name: Mr. Andrea Bagnoli Title: WFP Representative and Country Director Date: 18.05.2018
  (On behalf of UN Women)	Name: GERALD GUNTHER Title: REPRESENTATIVE UN WOMEN KYRGYZSTAN Date: 18 MAY 2018

ANNEX I: Workplan

Please fill the below workplan with activities linked to the specific Outputs:

Activity description	Related indicator	Number of beneficiaries (women/men)	Timeframe	Place of implementation	Lead Agency	Activity cost
Outcome 1. Rural women have Improved food and nutrition security						
Indicator 1.1. Increase of agricultural production of women farmers from Year 2014						
Indicator 1.2. Evidence of improvement of rural women dietary diversity and consumption patterns						
Output 1.1 Rural women have increased access to and control over resources, assets and services critical for their food and nutrition security						
1.1.1 Provision of agricultural tools (Mini-plastic tunnel greenhouses)	Increase of agricultural production	670/30 new participants	January-February 2019	Osh, Jalalabad, Batken	FAO	20000
1.1.2 Provision of drip irrigation equipment for 14 demonstration plots in pilot villages	Number of rural women utilizing improved production techniques	14 SHG s	January-February 2019	Osh, Jalalabad, Batken	FAO	10000
1.1.3 Carry out trainings for farmers on water saving technologies	Number of rural women utilizing improved production techniques	670/30 new participants	April-May 2019	Osh, Jalalabad, Batken	FAO	15000
1.1.4 Provision of seeds of vegetable crops (tomato, cucumber, pepper, cauliflower, broccoli, sweet corn, carrot, onion, cabbage etc)	Increase the yield of vegetables and household income	670/30 new participants	January-February 2019	Osh, Jalalabad, Batken	FAO	30000
1.1.5. Nutrition training	Evidence of improvement of rural women dietary diversity and consumption patterns	670/30 new participants	October 2019	Osh, Jalalabad, Batken	WFP	15000
1.1.6. Provision of fortified wheat flour and vegetable oil	% of families of SHGs having increased access to diversified diet both during harvest and lean seasons (% of families with improved food consumption indicators)	670/30 new participants	October 2018-June 2019	Osh, Jalalabad, Batken	WFP	85000

<p>% of families of SHGs members have increased access to diversified diet both during harvest and lean seasons</p>						
<p>Output 1.2 Rural women have greater capacity to enhance and control local food security reserves and their production</p>						
<p>1.2.1 Technical support by trainers/agronomists (agronomical consultancy)</p>	<p>Number of rural women utilizing improved production techniques</p>	<p>670/30 new participants</p>	<p>October 2018 December 2019</p>	<p>Osh, Jalalabad, Batken</p>	<p>FAO</p>	<p>7000</p>
<p>1.2.2 Carry out trainings for farmers on vegetable production technologies</p>	<p>Increase of agricultural production</p>	<p>670/30 new participants</p>	<p>October – December 2018</p>	<p>Osh, Jalalabad, Batken</p>	<p>FAO</p>	<p>25000</p>
<p>1.2.3 Carry out trainings for farmers on vegetable and fruit processing in home conditions</p>	<p>Improved nutrition of household's members (children etc.,)</p>	<p>670/30 new participants</p>	<p>July-August 2019</p>	<p>Osh, Jalalabad, Batken</p>	<p>FAO</p>	<p>20000</p>
<p>1.2.4 Carry out trainings for farmers on poultry production technologies</p>	<p>Number of rural women utilizing improved production techniques</p>	<p>60/20 new participants</p>	<p>February- March 2019</p>	<p>Osh, Jalalabad, Batken</p>	<p>FAO</p>	<p>7000</p>
<p>1.2.5 Carry out trainings for farmers on rural crafts</p>	<p>Number of rural women utilizing improved production techniques</p>	<p>45/5 new participants</p>	<p>December 2018 January 2019</p>	<p>Bishkek</p>	<p>FAO</p>	<p>6224</p>
<p>Outcome 2 Rural women have increased income to secure their livelihoods</p>						
<p>Indicator 2.1.: Income generated by rural women's cooperatives from their sales</p>						
<p>Indicator 2.2: Evidence of better quality of life and status of rural women</p>						
<p>Output 2.1 Rural women have enhanced entrepreneurship skills and value chains to access markets for their products</p>						
<p>2.1.1 Carry out trainings for farmers on farm management and business (planning, marketing, value chains, etc)</p>	<p>% of participants who undergone the training, who are using the obtained skills to run farms and enterprises</p>	<p>25/5 new participants</p>	<p>December 2018 January 2019</p>	<p>Osh, Jalalabad, Batken</p>	<p>FAO</p>	<p>10000</p>
<p>2.1.3. Training in Business Planning and Financial literacy</p>	<p>% of participants which undergone the training, who are using the obtained skills to generate income</p>	<p>670/30 new participants</p>	<p>January 2019</p>	<p>Osh, Jalalabad, Batken</p>	<p>WFP</p>	<p>20000</p>
<p>2.1.4. Guidance and mentoring in small business identification and development</p>	<p>% of participants which undergone the training, who are using the obtained skills to generate income</p>	<p>670/30 new participants</p>	<p>February – April 2019</p>	<p>Osh, Jalalabad, Batken</p>	<p>WFP</p>	<p>29014</p>
<p>Output 2.2 Rural women have increased access to decent wage employment opportunities</p>						

2.2.1. Needs based skills training in various income generating areas such as baking, sewing, quail farming, value chain development in silk production, biscuit production, etc.	% of participants which undergone the training, who are using the obtained skills to generate income	670/30 new participants	September- November 2019	Osh, Jalalabad, Batken	WFP	20000
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.: Proportion of rural women elected representatives in rural councils Indicator 3.2: Evidence of rural women's empowerment in intra household decision making Indicator 3.3: Proportion of POs led by women Indicator 3.4: Proportion of rural women who are members of rural institutions						
Output 3.1 Rural women, including young women have enhanced confidence and leadership skills to participate in local governance						
3.1.1. Strengthen leadership skills of rural women, and their understanding of local policy formulation and decision-making processes, leading up to improved gender responsiveness of local development plans based on needs assessment in pilot LGs	Number of rural women leaders participating in the process of local planning and budgeting	670/30 new participants and 2710/21 old participants	June 2018 – Aug 2019	Chui, Naryn, Osh, Jalalabad, Batken	UNWomen	25000
3.1.2. Support initiatives at community level for identifying and solving issues of local concern from gender perspectives through data collection, dialogues with local governments, lobbying etc	Number of local development plans/budgets developed based on participatory process	670/30 new participants and 2710/21 old participants	June 2018 – Aug 2019	Chui, Naryn, Osh, Jalalabad, Batken	UNWomen	9000
Output 3.2 Rural women have greater organizational capacities to form, sustain and participate into POs, cooperatives and unions						

<p>3.2.1. Carry out social mobilization of rural women into SHGs, along with the basic trainings on documentation; basics of gender; assist establishment of community revolving funds; Adapt and implement household methodologies using groups as a delivery channel. Conduct training, workshops, integrate the methodologies with programme's intervention</p>	<p>Number of rural women mobilized in self-help groups for joint economic activities</p>	<p>670/30 new participants and 2710/21 old participants</p>	<p>July 2018 – Aug 2019</p>	<p>Osh, Jalalabad, Batken</p>	<p>UN Women</p>	<p>50000</p>
<p>Output 3.3 Rural women, including young women, have increased capacity to engage in and influence relevant policy forums at national and regional levels</p>						
<p>3.3.1. Capacitate rural women to formulate recommendations to relevant policies / laws related to enhancing economic empowerment and support to rural women activists in identifying and lobbying for legislative and policy changes affecting lives of rural women at the local and national levels</p>	<p>Number of rural women participating in policy lobbying activities at local and central levels</p>	<p>80 rural women activists</p>	<p>July 2018 – Aug 2019</p>	<p>Chui, Naryn, Osh, Jalalabad, Batken</p>	<p>UN Women</p>	<p>50000</p>
<p>Output 3.4 Rural women, including young women have enhanced awareness on their rights in a more supportive community/local environment</p>						
<p>3.4.1. Raise awareness on rural women's rights (land, water, health, education etc) through informal women councils, forums and platforms for communication, legal literacy, community radios, and other consultative mechanisms</p>	<p>Number of initiatives addressing rural women's rights</p>	<p>670/30 new participants and 2710/21 old participants</p>	<p>July 2018 – Aug 2019</p>	<p>Chui, Naryn, Osh, Jalalabad, Batken</p>	<p>UN Women</p>	<p>20000</p>

3.4.2. Continue rolling out GALS/Household methodology, using self-help groups as a delivery entry point	Number of households receiving the GALS tools and engaged in joint economic activities	4,725 (3780 women and 945 men)	July 2018 – Aug 2019	Chui, Naryn, Osh, Jalalabad, Batken	IFAD	75000
Outcome 4 A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women						
Indicator 4.1: Proportion of government budgets and donor funding allocated to programmes benefitting rural women						
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 budget						
4.1.1. Conduct trainings and learning events for relevant government stakeholders, parliamentarians on gender-unequal laws and policies	Number of learning and advocacy events conducted	45/30 government officials	July 2018 – Aug 2019	National	UN Women	25000
	Number of policy-makers participated in the learning and advocacy events Evidence that policies and strategies include gender equality objectives and address the barriers to women's economic advancement					
Output 4.2 Greater availability of tools and data to track progress in the economic empowerment of rural women						
4.2.1. Implementation and calculation of the Women Empowerment in Agriculture Index	WEAI calculated for selected target areas, contributing to programme's baseline	Survey sample to be calculated together with survey company	May-June 2019	Jalal-Abad, Osh, and Naryn (JP target areas covered by USAID WEAI baseline survey)	IFAD	78224
Output 4.3 An enabling environment is promoted to reflect rural women's priorities in regional policy processes						

4.3.1. Provide support to ongoing process of SDGs localization, development of the Food Security and Nutrition Policy (2018-2020), the Strategy of Development of the Agriculture, The State Program of Rural Development, the Program on Social Protection and other sub-sectoral policies and programmes to ensure women and men equally benefit from and participate in the policy dialogue	Gender concerns are integrated in the relevant policy documents	Population / National	July 2018 – Aug 2019	National	UN Women, FAO, IFAD, WFP	10000
4.3.2. Joint Activities – International Rural Women’s Day, Rural Women Conference, 16 days of activism, IWDS, Final Program Conference	Number of learning and advocacy events conducted; Number of policy-makers participated in the learning and advocacy events	670/30 new participants and 2710/21 old participants	July 2018 – Aug 2019	National	UN Women, FAO, IFAD, WFP	20391
Programme Coordination and Monitoring						
Indirect Support Costs						
					FAO	11776
					UN Women	17009
					WFP	10986
					IFAD	11776
Personnel and Staff Costs						
					FAO	18000
					IFAD	15000
					UN Women	33600
TOTAL						800000