

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

<p align="center">Programme Title & Project Number</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme Title: Accelerating Progress Toward the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women • MPTF Office Project Reference Number: 00092000 	<p align="center">Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results</p> <p><i>Ethiopia, Federal and Regional (Oromia and Afar)</i></p> <p>The strategic result is to secure rural women’s livelihoods and rights in the context of the SDGs.</p> <p>Direct Beneficiaries (2019): 3,500 Women</p> <p>Indirect Beneficiaries (2019):15,000 (9,000 women and 6,000 men)</p>
<p align="center">Participating Organization(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAO, IFAD, UNWOMEN, WFP 	<p align="center">Implementing Partners</p> <p>Federal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Women, Children and Youth (MoWCY) • Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) • Land Administration and Use Directorate under Ministry of Agriculture • Ministry of Finance and Economic Cooperation (MoFEC) • Bureau of Cooperative Promotion Agencies (BoCPA) • Federal Urban Job Creation and Food Security Agency. <p>Regional and District level (Oromia and Afar):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bureaus of Women and Children Affairs (BoWCYAs) • Cooperative Promotion Agency • Bureaus of Finance and Economic Cooperation (BoFECs) • Bureaus of Agriculture (BoA) • Bureaus of Livestock and Bureaus of Education <p>Non-Governmental Organizations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Society for Women and AIDS in Africa-Ethiopia (SWAA-E)
<p align="center">Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</p> <p>Agency Contribution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>by Agency (if applicable)</i> <p>Government Contribution <i>(if applicable)</i></p>	<p align="center">Programme Duration</p> <p>Overall Duration: 8 years</p> <p>Start Date <i>15 10 2012</i></p> <p>End Date 31 December 2021, subject to subsequent signing the Addendum</p>

Other Contributions (donors) <i>(if applicable)</i>
Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.
Assessment/Review - if applicable <i>please attach</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i>
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List of Acronyms

BDS	Business Development Service
BoANRs	Bureaus of Agriculture and Natural Resources
BoCPA	Bureau of Cooperative Promotion Agencies
BoFEC	Bureau of Finance and Economic Cooperation ¹
BoWCYA	Bureau of Women Children and Youth Affairs ²
CCs	Community Conversations
CPAs	Cooperative Promotion Agencies
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GRB	Gender-Responsive Budgeting
IDP	Internally Displaced People
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IGAs	Income Generating Activities
JP RWEE	Joint Program on Rural Women Economic Empowerment
LAND	Land Administration to Nurture Development
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoWCY	Ministry of Women Children and Youth ³
MoFEC	Ministry of Finance and Economic Cooperation ⁴
MPTF	Multi Partners Trust Fund
PMC	Programme Management Committee
RUSACCOs	Rural Saving and Credit Cooperative Organizations
SNNPR	Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region
SWAA-E	Society for Women and AIDS in Africa-Ethiopia
TWG	Technical Working Group
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
WFP	United Nations World Food Programme
WISE	Organization for Women in Self Employment
WEAI	Women Empowerment Agriculture Index

¹ The regional Bureaus of Finance and Economic Development are changed to Bureaus of Finance and Economic Cooperation

² The regional Bureaus of Women and Children affairs are changed to Bureaus of Women, Children and Youth affairs

³ The Ministry of Women and children affairs is changed to Ministry of Women, Children and Youth

⁴ The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development is now changed to Ministry of Finance and Economic Cooperation

NARRATIVE REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the reporting period, from 1 January to 31 December 2019, the JP RWEE has targeted more than 3,500 women beneficiaries (of which 2,500 were previously targeted and 1,000 are new beneficiaries). From the total number of 1000 new beneficiaries; 800 women were internally displaced people (IDPs) in the Oromia region and 200 were women beneficiaries in the Afar region. In terms of district focus, the programme targeted four districts Dubti in Afar region and Adamitulu, Yayagulele and Dodola in Oromia as well as two new towns which are hosting IDPs, Galan and Sululta in Oromia Regional State.

The key achievements for 2019 include:

- The new beneficiaries organised themselves into five Saving and Credit Cooperatives (RUSACCOs). The total number of programme beneficiaries in the 15 RUSACCOs reached 4,527 people out of which 4,416 (97.5%) were women.
- A total of 558 IDPs (304 women IDPs in Gelan and 254 women IDPs in Sululta, Oromia region) have benefited from the provision of a revolving fund which was provided after they received training on basic business skill and financial management. Each beneficiary received 6,000 ETB (US\$ 189) in Gelan and 7,500 ETB (US\$ 235) in Sululta and this enabled the women to engage in diversified business.
- Two newly established cooperatives consisting of 105 women in Dubti (Afar region) has benefited by the provision of the revolving fund. Every member obtained 10,000 ETB (US\$ 314) with the aim of engaging in goat selling business and horticulture.
- 3,727 women beneficiaries and IDPs⁵ (3,288 in Oromia and 439 in Afar) have managed to access to financial services from saving and credit services (revolving funds) for their income generating activities.
- The number of women beneficiaries who managed to have a diversified and sustainable source of income increased from 2,915 in 2018 to 3,578 women beneficiaries (3,245 in Oromia and 333 in Afar).
- Personal savings of women beneficiaries engaged in diversified and sustainable sources of income increased ranging from 15,400 ETB (US\$ 524.82) in 2018 to 100,000 ETB (US\$ 3,407.96).
- 2,120 multi-nutrient blocks were provided to supplement animal feed for women business groups in fattening and dairy businesses. Adami Tulu Jiddo Kombolcha district (Abdi Boru Fattening Center) was provided with a transformer as source of electricity power after more than one year of follow up and lobby with the electricity power supply office of the district government. Supply of the electricity is also supporting women in fattening business to process animal fodder at the Anano Shisho Kebele, in Oromia region.
- From 18 to 21 December 2019, staff from the Rural Land Administration and Use Directorate were given a training on gender issues in land administration. A total of 28 staff members (19 men and nine women) attended the training. Along with the training, the program has created an opportunity to work in cooperation with the Directorate. The workshop was concluded with jointly planned strategic focus areas in relation to gender and land issues like working with free legal service centers with the aim of strengthening women's land rights and cascading similar trainings at grassroot level.
- The Women Empowerment Agricultural Index (WEAI) has been used to gain midline data from 1,200 women. The key findings of the evaluation show an increase in control over income, greater decision-making in agricultural production and spouses also benefit from the program.

⁵ Remark – IDPs refers to women targeted from Internally Displaced people.

Results

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

As a result of integrated agricultural services, technical trainings⁶, labor saving technologies⁷, JP RWEE has enabled its 87.6% of the beneficiaries to feed themselves three times per day, while 10.2% eat twice daily and 2% are able to eat once per day. In Oromia region, 90% of the project beneficiaries in Oromia are able to eat three times per day.

UN Women in collaboration with implementing partner SWAA-E, conducted a rapid assessment on practices, gaps and capacity enhancement needs of Hunde Guddina Fattening Business Cooperative (HGFBC) center at Adami Tulu-Jido Kombolcha and Burka Milling Business Cooperative (BMBC) Center at Sululuta district. The assessment was supported by external consultant who was commissioned for the same purpose. The assessment was used to identify the strengths and gaps of the ongoing activities and leadership of the cooperatives with the aim of supporting women to engage in useful climate smart agriculture. This includes crop rotation, integrated crop-livestock management, agroforestry, improved grazing system and water management) and agribusiness practices such as value addition businesses (e.g. dairy processing, production of butter and cottage cheese). This was with consideration of the climate change, soil fertility and accessibility of water resources to the centers while the assessment has enabled the JP RWEE to identify suitable vegetables and fruits for the area. The assessment also identified more feasible business options like engagement of the cooperative in small ruminant fattening, poultry production with planting of environmentally friendly trees, fruits, grasses and vegetables suitable to the areas.

Thus, based on the rapid assessment results, JP RWEE has supplied inputs (seedlings) and facilitated the plantation of wind breaking trees, fruits (Mango, Avocado, Papaya and Banana) at the Anano shisho, a site given to one group with 75 women and youth members for fattening business. The plantation was carried out with the women with technical support from UN Women and SWAAE Program Staff and the District Agriculture Office at Adami Tulu Jido K. district. This site was very dry (semi-desert) having no fruit or vegetable before this intervention. JP RWEE is aiming at making this site green with diversified CSA farming and livestock practices and value additions with help of CSA technologies. With this objective, a water tank with the capacity of 10,000 liters was also bought and installed at the center.

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

Women beneficiaries were provided with seeds. After the seeds were harvested, the seeds were repaid with additional kilos of interest back to their RUSACCOS. During the field visit it was observed that most beneficiaries who took different types of crop seed have repaid them with supplementary amounts of seed as an interest in the three target Woredas. For instance, in Yaya Gulele Woreda beneficiaries have returned wheat and teff to their respective RUSACCOS.

In 2019, 955 women beneficiaries were reorganized into nine agro-processing groups (seven in Oromia and two in Afar) to engage in four types of income generating activities (IGAs): cattle fattening, milk processing, grain production and grinding mills services. By the end of 2019, all agro-processing and grain producing business groups, have accessed land, working premises and facilitates for their production and sales activities.

The cattle fattening cooperative (68 women beneficiaries) in the Yaya Gulele district of Oromia obtained 2,500 Square Meters of land from the local government. The cattle fattening groups in Adamitulu districts of Oromia were provided with electricity, which was connected and installed through new a transformer for fodder processing. This has significantly benefited the women cooperatives in the region. These results were achieved by JP RWEE by organizing a series of awareness and consultative meetings and engagement with district administration, Ethiopian Electric Power Cooperation and Offices of Women and Children Affairs of the two districts.

⁶ On Household food reserve and control, agricultural techniques, nutrition and food security

⁷ Innovative agriculture inputs and labour saving technologies prominently reduced the workload of rural women and save their time and energy. For example, different types of trainings conducted prior to the start of the intervention and the delivery of maize sheller, milk processing materials, modern beehives and water pumps.

In Dodola, Badhatu cooperative with 265 members at Bura Adele kebele, were given 1.5 hectares of land from the government for joint farming activities. From this land women have managed to harvest 90 quintals of wheat as joint business and earned approximately 110,000 ETB (US\$ 3,437) as income.

Access to productive resources was also strengthened by the support provided by JP RWEE for women in Afar through land provision for feed bank development. Organized business dairy and fattening business groups has received 15 hectares of land each for feed bank development.

Output 1.2: Rural women have greater capacity to enhance and control local food security reserves and their production.

The milk processing machinery that was enabled through JP RWEE has resulted in a significant income generation activity and as a source of nutrition for the beneficiaries. The milk processing machine is used to extract cream, make butter and cheese. Capacity building trainings on household food reserves and management has been provided for 300 women beneficiaries in Oromia along with access to innovative agricultural and food processing technologies (e.g. Maize sheller). This was accompanied with the introduction of labour saving technologies such as maize sheller, milk processing materials, modern beehives and water pumps. This has helped 2,295 women beneficiaries to manage their household's food reserve (65 % of the 3,500 rural women). As a result of which, children who previously dropped out to support their families have been observed returning to school.

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

During the reporting period, the Milk Processing group in Yaya Gulele district, earned a profit of 25,000 ETB (US\$ 851). Similarly, the Milk processing group in Adami Tulu district earned profit of 10,000 ETB (US\$ 340) while they also earned 117,080 ETB (US\$ 3,990) from selling cattle during 2019.

The Boyna Milk Processing Cooperatives in Afar region that is organized and trained through JP RWEE started their business in a rented shop while waiting for the construction of their own premises. Ever since they started, their business has been growing. In 2018, they used to sell 10 liters of milk per day which has increased to 37 liter per day in 2019. Besides the of selling dairy products, they were also engaged in preparing a traditional food called Gamo using Maize, of which on average the cooperatives consume 50 kg per day. The group has become proactive in their local area and their income is increasing gradually. In 2018, they used to earn 600 ETB (US\$ 20) per day per cooperative, which has grown to 3,320 ETB per day (US\$ 107) in 2019. Similarly, the groups' income has reached 301,830 ETB (US\$ 9,736), of which they have deposited 271,330 ETB (US\$ 8,752) in bank while using the remaining 30,500 ETB for running the daily business.

Asboda Milk Processing Cooperative in Asboda kebele of Dupty district (Afar Region) was able to earn 42,000 ETB (US\$ 1,354) in its first six months of starting the business. During 2019, the cooperative managed to run a business while repaying the loan and so far, they have paid 15,000 ETB (US\$ 470) out of 40,000 ETB (US\$ 1,250) for the saving and credit association.

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

The programme brought change in the lives of women beneficiaries through the provision of Business Development Services (BDS)⁸, entrepreneurship, leadership and literacy skills. It also created access to exposures to useful markets information through experience sharing visits, gender-sensitive financial and non-financial services, and productive resources (land, time and labor-saving technologies). This achievement extends the impacts of JP RWEE on diversified and sustainable sources of income to 2,958 women beneficiaries (2,730 in Oromia and 228 in Afar).

Moreover, 3,727 women beneficiaries and IDP⁹ (3,288 in Oromia and 439 in Afar) have accessed financial services from saving and credit services (revolving funds) for their income generating activities. Additionally, the number of women beneficiaries who managed to have a diversified and sustainable source of income increased from 2,915 in 2018 to 3,578 women beneficiaries (3,245 in Oromia and 333 in Afar).

⁸ Services that improve the performance of the enterprise, its access to markets, and its ability to compete. The definition of "business development services" includes a wide array of business services, both strategic and operational. BDS are designed to serve individual businesses, as opposed to the larger business community (CDASED 2001).

⁹ Remark – IDPs refers to women targeted from Internally Displaced people.

In the reporting period, the third-round revolving fund which amounted to 3,827,185.09 ETB (US\$ 133,712) was released for 550 women organized under three RUSACCOs, namely Tokuma Jalela, Afren Qello, Tokuma-sululata. For 105 women members in Afar an additional fund of 956,796.27 ETB (US\$ 33,428) was released. These funds are given as loans and are mainly intended for petty trade activities as these beneficiaries are internally displaced from other regions due to the instability.

A total of 558 women beneficiaries (304 women in Gelan and 254 in Sululta, Oromia region) benefited from the provision of a revolving fund which was provided after they received training on basic business skill and financial management. Each beneficiary received 6,000 ETB (US\$ 189)¹⁰ in Gelan and 7,500 ETB (US\$ 235) in Sululta and this enabled the women to engage in diversified business.

With the support and facilitation of JP RWEE a bazar and market exhibition were organized. This was a good opportunity to create linkages between women beneficiaries' cooperatives and urban (city) based women enterprises in addition to sharing experiences, knowledge, market information and revenue generation. The platforms were also useful for the women beneficiaries to voice their challenges on input supply to relevant government stakeholders like the Ethiopian Industrial Input Development Enterprises.

To increase access to market opportunities and create exposure to national and regional level markets, in 2019 a total of 472 women beneficiaries from the three districts of Oromia region were linked to Addis Ababa market. As the market opportunity is high in Addis Ababa, this created a good opportunity to be utilized.

In collaboration with JP RWEE stakeholders, particularly the Women, Children, and Youths office, two business cooperatives participated in two local bazaars and exhibitions organized by their respective Woreda Micro and Small Enterprise Development offices in Yayagullele and AdamiTulu. A total of 100 (7 men and 93 women) cooperative members displayed their products.

Based on the information and business advice gathered from experts (BDS providers), Abdi Boru Cooperative with 400 members (Dodaola district) was able to increase the profit by waiting for and selling agricultural products (e.g. cereal such as wheat, corn and beans) during the appropriate market season. Depending on the item they were selling there was increase in profit margin close to US\$ 20. For example, they would have initially sold the agricultural products for 900-10,00 ETB (US\$ 25-30) per quintal, but it increased to 1,329 ETB (US\$ 41) after waiting for two to three months.

Sifan Bekelcha Beri dairy cooperative at Yaya gulele district created partnership with Selale University to sell butter which has created an opportunity for the business cooperative to expand its sales. Drie Biftu milk processing business group with 75 members in Yayagulale, has started its milk and milk-product collection and selling. Market linkages has been made with Fitcha, Fittal, and also for World Vision staff in the Kebele.

Additionally, two newly established cooperatives consisting of 105 women in Dubti (Afar region) have benefited through the provision of a revolving fund. Each individual obtained 10,000 ETB (US\$ 314) with the aim at engaging on goat selling business and horticulture.

So far, 3,280 women beneficiaries (2,964 in Oromia and 316 in Afar) strengthened business knowledge and entrepreneurship skills.

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

During the reporting period, four cooperatives were supported to be reorganized into agri-business cooperatives and obtained legal certification. These include the following cooperatives:

No.	Woreda (District)	No. of Women Cooperatives	Business Type	Number of Women
1.	Adami Tullu JK	2	Diary Production	68
			Cattle fattening	75
2.	Dodola	1	Diary Production	58
3.	YaaYaa Gulelle	1	Diary Production	75
4.	Dubti	3	2 Dairy Production	150
			One in Cattle fattening	

Of these Agri business cooperatives, Sifan Bekelcha Beri Dairy Cooperative in Oromia region Yaya Gulelle district has managed to get sales amount of US\$ 7,697.83 with net profit of US\$ 650.31 by sell the following dairy products, in the year 2019:

Milk Product	Unit	Amount	Sold in Birr	Remark
Milk	Lit	2455	34,370.00	US\$ 1,067.39
Butter	Kg	619	148,560.00	US\$ 4,613.66
Yoghurt	Lit	2000	36,000.00	US\$ 1,118.01
Chesses	Kg	1248	49,920.00	US\$ 1,550.31
		Total income	268,810.00	US\$ 8,348.14
		Total expense	247,870.00 ¹¹	US\$ 7,697.83
		Net Income/Profit	20,940.00	US\$ 650.31

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

Community Conversations (CC) was one of the techniques used to strengthen voices of the rural women, challenge gender relations and bring about behavior changes within the community. 9,190 community members (7,380 women and 1,810 men) including targeted women, their spouses, members of the JP RWEE Technical Working Group and Steering Committee and members of women associations were part of the program.

Output 3.1: Rural women, including young women have enhanced confidence and leadership skills to take an active part in local governance systems.

In total JP RWEE was able to reach 9,649 (7,654 women and 1,995 men) community members through community conversations,¹² individual level leadership trainings, exposure visits, and awareness creation on basic gender issues campaigns conducted in both regions. This has led to the community in shifting some attitudes, to be increasingly positive about women's engagement in leadership roles and actively supporting women's leadership.

Through multiple consultative meetings and workshops, training members and leaders of nine cooperatives engaged in agro - business in five districts (four in Oromia and one district in Afar Regional states) were capacitated with leadership skills including; group harmony, creating a better working system and business transparency skills. . These consultations resulted in enhancing the

¹¹ Costs of purchase/collecting, milk processing and sells costs

¹² The figure excludes TWG, members of the Steering Committee and women associations.

capacity of 521 individuals (509 women and 12 men), of which 505 are business cooperative members and 16 committee representatives.

In addition, a forum on Women's Agency for Economic Empowerment and Family Resilience was organized on 10 October 2019 in Addis Ababa in collaboration with the Organization for Women in Self Employment (WISE). The main objective of the forum was to create a space for reflecting, sharing, appraising, making collective voices and learning from practice. During the forum, panel discussions by the women cooperative leaders and presentations were made on the importance of organizing and training women to build and enhance their agency. As well as presentations and group discussions were made on the challenges faced by women in business, both in rural and urban setting, including access to markets, land/working premises and financial services. In addition, experiences sharing on the connection of agency and family resilience and discussions on the broader issue of economic empowerment of women in advancing gender equality were held.

In the Oromia region an Integrated Functional Adult Literacy Sessions was provided to 1,007 women. This has enhanced the numeracy and literacy skills and confidence of both existing and newly targeted women.

Additional efforts were made in 2019 to establish partnerships with private organizations where experience-sharing visits were held with Entoto Beth Artisan. Entoto Beth Artisan is a social business that empowers women through jobs creation and skill development initiatives focusing on women who live with HIV/AIDS. JP RWEE created the partnership to develop technical skill trainings, market linkages and experience sharing. Such initiatives aim to create synergy and mentorship opportunities with the private sector and members of the different cooperatives in the JP RWEE implementing regions.

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

A new cooperative consisting of 558 IDPs (304 women IDPs in Gelan and 254 women IDPs in Sululta, Oromia region) has been established. Similarly, two cooperatives consisting of 105 women in Dubti (Afar region) has been established. These established cooperatives are mainly managed by women who are elected by members of the group.



Ms. Letty Chiwara, UN Women's Representative to Ethiopia, AU and UNECA, gives remarks.
(E-Photo: UN Women/Fikerte Abebe)



Ms. Sibi Lawson-Marriott of WFP (*right*) honors Mr. Birhanu Tadesse from Yaya Gulele district, in Oromia region, as one of the model men identified by the community for their contributions in the empowerment of the women. (*E-Photo: UN Women/Fikerte Abebe*)

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

A series of gender sensitization workshops and consultative meetings were held over two days in Sululta and Gelan towns, organized specially for IDPs. The workshop and consultative meeting were conducted in parallel in the two towns on 30 -31 December 2019. The 229 participants (110 women and 119 men) of the workshop were selected members of women saving and credit cooperatives, their husbands and community leaders.

The women beneficiaries engaged in the processing of milk in Dodola participated in an experience sharing visit to Yayagulele district to facilitate the effective use of milk processing technologies on 20 July 2019. Thirteen individuals (11 women and two men) from Dodola participated in this experience sharing visit. Some of the highlights of the experience-sharing visit to Yayagulele district were about quality leadership, commitment of the members and the need to have continuous business development service Business Development Service (BDS) by the technical persons at the local level was identified as a key factor for success. This and personal observation by the participants were a good opportunity for the Dodola agri-business cooperatives to get hands on information from women who have more experience in similar business and successfully running a joint agri-business. As indicated from the Dodola cooperative representatives, it was a positive learning opportunity for them where they have seen how the collection, processing and sales activities are successfully carried out by the Yaya Gulele women in addition to the effective leadership the committees are offering.

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

In the framework of the celebration of the International Women's day, awareness was created by JP RWEE on misconceptions on gender issues and women's economic rights for 230 (164 women and 66 men) community members which included religion leaders, Aba Gadas (community leaders), the women beneficiaries and leaders of JP RWEE, district and regional government representatives. Under the JP RWEE, the International Women's Day was commemorated in 2019 with women and men from rural area in Ziway town, Oromia region on 14 March. The event was organized in partnership with the Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs, UN Agencies, development partners, CSOs and local government. The event brought together around 200

women and men including from one of the JP RWEE areas in Afar region, over 600 km away from the town of Ziway. A visit from the cattle fattening centre owned by JP RWEE's women's cooperative, exhibition of agricultural products from improved seeds and technology, as well as acknowledgement of best practices by women and men who are making a difference in their communities and inspiring others were among the activities of the day.

Outcome 4: A More Gender responsive policy environment is Secured for the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women

With the aim of increasing the gender responsiveness of the Agriculture Mechanization Policy, a rapid assessment was conducted on gender and agricultural mechanization. From the same report a policy brief was developed and shared with the Agricultural Mechanization Directorate and Agricultural Transformation Agency to further inform the development process of the Agriculture Mechanization Policy.

Output 4.1. Policy makers and parliamentarians have enhanced capacity to effectively mainstream gender into land, food, agriculture, nutrition and rural employment policies, laws and budgets.

Through training, key stakeholders who work in close cooperation with JP RWEE have enhanced their understanding and skills on various issues including gender responsive services, gender analysis, gender-sensitive indicators and gender integration in planning and management activities. Participants included government experts from the Bureaus of Agriculture, Bureau of Cooperative Promotion Agency, Bureau of Education, Bureau Livestock, Bureau of Women, Children and Youth Affairs. A total of 125 participants (25 women and 100 men) took part.

From 18 to 21 December 2019, JP RWEE in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture conducted a training for 28 (19 men and nine women) experts of the Rural Land Administration and Use Directorate on gender mainstreaming in land administration. Among others, gender issues under the land administration system, customs and laws that hinder women from benefiting from land rights and what can be done to solve the problem were discussed. Through the training, a new working relationship with the Rural Land Administration and Use Directorate was established and discussion on future undertakings related to gender and working with free legal service centers with the aim of strengthening women's land rights were held.

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

To track the progress of targeted rural women, the Women Empowerment's Agricultural Index (WEAI)¹³ tool has been used. A midline data collection was conducted for 1,200 beneficiary households through JP RWEE program. The preliminary finding has identified the following:

- Women have more control over income and outputs such as production
- Women are more likely to have greater control over the income and output, particularly from staple grain farming and large livestock
- Improvement in decision-making in agricultural production particularly on horticultural and high value farming production
- Women who have accessed credit improved their decision-making power to a greater extent
- The improvement also benefited spouses, particularly, men in beneficiary households were able to use the income for large and small livestock and poultry as result of the programme
- Unfortunate consequence is that the programme seemed to increase women's time burden.

Despite, the numerous efforts made in Afar through the JP RWEE, it was not possible to conduct the assessment and to witness the change due to inter-ethnic conflicts and fragile political environment. Hence, the preliminary findings are limited only to Oromia region. With regards to Afar region, there is a need to conduct another assessment to get the result achieved.

¹³ WEAI is developed by International Food policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

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

The overall implementation of the JP RWEE was challenging due to government restructuring, staff turnover and instability at community level due to violent clashes. In some instances, experts and higher officials were not available due to competing priorities. The political instability of the country also challenged field travels, meetings and implementation. The main mitigation strategy used was to have a strong information sharing system with local implementing partners.

For instance, the Women Empowerment Agricultural Index (WEAI) assessment was not conducted in Afar through the JP RWEE, it was not possible to conduct the assessment and to witness the change due to inter-ethnic conflicts and fragile political environment. Hence, the preliminary findings are limited only to Oromia region.

With regards to business cooperatives, the major challenges and gaps identified were; limited working capital and shortage of supply for funds, limited or very low market linkage and promotion. Electric power interruption is one of the leading challenges for all business activities. In some businesses such as bakery, they use traditional baking methods when the electric system is off is being used as one of the mitigation strategies.

Lessons Learned and best practices:

The following are lessons extracted from the implementation of the JP RWEE

- For JP RWEE to continue being effective, a comprehensive approach needs to be implemented with the strong engagement of men. Strong male engagement is key in ensuring the success, ownership and sustainability of the program and to transform the gender relations and gender division of labor at household and community level. As such, in 2020 there will be a effort to ensure that, strong community conversations are undertaken in which the men take part,
- While organizing individuals in business cooperatives, it is important to assess what they have already have in terms of knowledge and experience rather than introducing new ideas. This is important, as the business will be built (based) on already existing knowledge such as poultry for beneficiaries who came from rural area, having the knowledge and experience rather than educating them in modern bakery system from scratch.

Case Story 1.

Tsehay Getahune (30 years old, married and mother of one child), one of the members of Afren kollo cooperative in Sululta, has been displaced from her permanent residence in Jijiga for the past two years. The government has provided a plot of land for the Internally Displaced People from Jijiga and she has taken land with her family in Sululta city of Oromia region. She said it was tough for her to sustain daily living without any income and means of living in a new environment. In 2019, she was able to attend a JP RWEE training about entrepreneurship skill, cooperatives, saving and poultry. She received 7,500 ETB (US\$ 235) from the cooperative as a loan to start her own poultry business. She started the business with 50 chickens and gets 35 eggs per day, which will be sold for 157 ETB each day.

Though, she has never been into poultry business previously, she says it is a promising investment and the training she has got from the experts from Bureau of Agriculture and cooperatives has helped her significantly. She has learnt how to feed, follow up the health and production of eggs in poultry.



W.ro Tsehay Getahun Sululta City Admonition, Oromia region, JP RWEE beneficiary. (E-Photo: UN Women)

III. Qualitative assessment

The JP RWEE mid-term evaluation was conducted from June to November 2018. One of the key recommendations was to build substantive partnership with government institutions as it takes long time but yields results. Based on this recommendation, in 2019, a joint partner´ reflection meeting consisting of Members of the regional and district level JPRWEE Technical Working Groups (TWGs) along with district administrators of Yaya Gulele, Adamitulu, Dodola, Sululta and Gelan Towns of Oromia region has taken place. Similarly, in Ayrolaf and Gebelayeto Kebeles of Afar Region a consultative Technical Working Groups meeting was held 27 November 2019.

In both meetings, government was represented by Bureau of Women, Children and Youth, Bureau of Agriculture, Bureau of Livestock and Cooperative promotion agency, focal persons from UN agencies were part of the discussion. The aim of the meeting was to discuss, identify and learn lessons from previous years and to lay the foundation for a possible phase II of JP RWEE. To this end, the discussion focused on achievements, challenges and lessons of the first phase and sensitize partners on how to sustain results of the first phase and acceleration of activities for the second phase. Key recommendations included:

- Work in a more coordinated manner
- Strength the capacity of cooperatives´ representatives
- Revisit and strength culture of saving.

Similarly, a separate meeting was held 1-2 August 2019 with the focal persons of Sululta and Gelan town on IDPs context. The discussion was about reviewing implemented activities and how to integrate future activities including work with the hosting community, enhance the saving culture among IDP communities and advancing communication among stakeholders.

Another recommendation was to focus on the needs of vulnerable groups and the strict use of the revolving funds. Accordingly, in the 2020 Annual Work plan, a special focus was given on how to manage the issue of the most vulnerable groups including detailed

activities targeting IDPs, people with disabilities and living with HIV/AIDs. In the utilization of revolving funds, new selection criteria were jointly identified allowing the prioritization of the most vulnerable groups accessing fund scheme.

With regards to sustainability, JP RWEE lays the foundation for the sustainability of the outcomes achieved at individual, group and institutional levels. These include:

- Implementing along government priorities; initiating partnership from global to local level; working within existing structures; building the capacity of individual women, government organizations and women associations; supporting the creation of a gender-sensitive policy environment; providing revolving funds and inputs for beneficiary women and their cooperatives.
- The low capacity and turn-over of government staff, the growing demand for revolving fund and global competition for fund among donors are challenges to the JP RWEE's sustainability. However, the local government's willingness to mobilize domestic resources and scale up the JP PRWEE activities will probably offset the limitations and ensure sustainability.

To strength the effort, a sustainability strategy has been developed in 2019 and it will be updated with additional input after having a discussion with partners and stakeholders.

ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:

	<u>Achieved</u> Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Outcome 1 Improved food and nutrition security			
<p>Indicator 1.1: Frequency and composition of meals and dietary diversity among women beneficiaries and family members</p> <p>Baseline: Oromia :87.6% eat three times a day;10.2% eat twice a day and 2 % eat once a day Afar :39.9% eat three times a day; 34.1 % eat twice a day; 20.3 % eat once a day</p> <p>Planned Target: 70% of the beneficiaries in Afar will eat three times a day with appropriate dietary diversity 97% of the beneficiaries in Oromia will eat three times a day with appropriate dietary diversity.</p> <p>Indicator 1.2: % increase in agricultural production of women beneficiaries (targeted households) in a sustainable manner</p> <p>Baseline: Oromia: 4.7% Afar: 18.4% declining</p> <p>Planned Target: Average 20% increase</p>	<p>80% (90% in Oromia and 35% in Afar) able to feed their household 3 times/day. (by 2018) 90% of the project beneficiaries in Oromia are able to feed themselves and their households 3 times per day up until present.</p> <p>100% increase in wheat production and 125% and 83% increased for maize and teff productions (Teff increased on average from 7 quintals to 16 per hectare, wheat increase from 18 to 30 per hectare while maize increased from 20 quintals to 52 quintals per hectare.)</p>	<p>Limitation in getting current and exact figure at grass root level.</p>	<p>Year-end monitoring data collected through the Bureau of Agriculture in Oromia and Bureau of Pastoral and Agriculture Development in Afar.</p> <p>Year-end monitoring data collected through the Bureau of Agriculture in Oromia and Bureau of Pastoral and Agriculture Development in Afar</p>

Output 1.1 Rural women have increased access to and control over resources, assets and services critical for their food and nutrition security			
<p>Indicator 1.1.1 Number of targeted rural households accessing integrated agriculture services and Inputs.</p> <p>Baseline: Oromia: 100 women beneficiaries Afar: none</p> <p>Planned Target: 2,400 women beneficiaries</p>	<p>1,556 women beneficiaries/households (1,523 in Oromia and 33 in Afar who have farmland) have accessed integrated agricultural nutrition services from the trained DAs and A/HEWs.</p> <p>1,108 women beneficiaries received agricultural inputs and technologies.</p>		<p>Year-end monitoring data collected through the Bureau of Agriculture in Oromia and Bureau of Pastoral and Agriculture Development in Afar.</p>
<p>Indicator 1.1.2 Number of women beneficiaries utilizing improved production techniques</p> <p>Baseline: Oromia: 46, Afar: none as pastoralist community, women hardly improved production techniques</p> <p>Planned Target: 1,600 of the women beneficiaries</p>	<p>1,031 women beneficiaries (825 in Oromia and 206 in Afar) are now able to utilize improved production techniques.</p>		<p>Year-end monitoring data collected through the Bureau of Agriculture in Oromia and Bureau of Pastoral and Agriculture Development in Afar.</p>
<p>Indicator 1.1.3. Number of women provided with time and labour saving and agricultural productive technologies with access to necessary capacity building interventions.</p> <p>Baseline: Oromia: None; Afar: None</p> <p>Planned Target: 1500 women accessing technology and tools</p>	<p>842 women beneficiaries (642 in Oromia and 200 in Afar) accessed time and labor-saving technologies. The technologies include, one tractor to the RUSACCO, hand operated cream separator, hand operated butter turner, aluminum milk container, deep freeze and cattle fattening</p>		<p>Year-end monitoring data collected through the Bureau of Agriculture in Oromia and Bureau of Pastoral and Agriculture Development in Afar.</p>

Output 1.2 Rural women have greater capacity to enhance and control local food security reserves and their production			
<p>Indicator 1.2.1 Percentage of women beneficiaries leading and managing food household reserves as a result of enhanced capacity</p> <p>Baseline: Oromia 20.6% Afar -None</p> <p>Planned Target: On average 50% of the targeted women</p>	<p>65% of the 3,500 rural women, 2,295 women beneficiaries were able to manage their household's food reserve.</p>	<p>3,500 women beneficiaries (2,500 existing and 1,000 new)</p>	<p>Year-end monitoring data collected through the Bureau of Agriculture in Oromia and Bureau of Pastoral and Agriculture Development in Afar.</p>
<p>Indicator 1.2.2 Number of women beneficiaries accessing the innovative food processing plants (agriculture technology)</p> <p>Baseline: Oromia: None Afar: none</p> <p>Planned Target: 1,000 of the target women</p>	<p>300 women beneficiaries in Oromia in 2019 along with access to innovative agricultural and food processing technologies.</p>		<p>Year-end monitoring data collected through the Bureau of Agriculture in Oromia and Bureau of Pastoral and Agriculture Development in Afar.</p>
Outcome 2 Women beneficiaries have increased income to secure their livelihoods.			
<p>Indicator 2.1: Number of women with diversified income sources.</p> <p>Baseline: Oromia: All women beneficiaries (households) have one to two sources of income (agriculture and livestock) Afar: All women beneficiaries (households) have one to two sources of income (agriculture and livestock) And (14-16% engage in labour work like Food for work programme and petty trade for subsistence life)</p>	<p>(3,245 in Oromia and 333 in Afar) of women beneficiaries diversified their sources of income.</p>		<p>Data collected through BoWCAs, and CPAs</p>

<p>Planned Target: 3 to 4 income sources for at least 1,340 women of the target districts depending on the target areas:</p> <p>Indicator 2.2: Amount of women /women groups/ cooperatives income generated from their sales Baseline: US\$ 450 per Annum Planned Target: US\$ 900 per annum for 70% of the target</p>	<p>US\$ 3,642 per annum on average for three cooperatives; Belkecheberi of Yaya Gulele district earned profit of 25,000 ETB (US\$ 851), Abdi Boru of Adami Tulu district earned profit of 10,000 ETB (US\$ 340), and Boyna Milk Processing Cooperatives in Dubti district of Afar region earned 301,830 ETB (US\$ 9,736).</p>		<p>Year-end monitoring data collected through the Bureau of Agriculture in Oromia and Bureau of Pastoral and Agriculture Development in Afar.</p>
<p>Output 2.1 Rural women have enhanced entrepreneurship skills and value chains to access markets for their products</p>			
<p>Indicator 2.1.1 Number of women beneficiaries getting access to diversified market opportunities (district and regional) markets for their goods /services</p> <p>Baseline: Oromia: None; Afar: None</p> <p>Planned Target: At least 2,000 of target women beneficiaries (3,500) to get access to diversified/better market</p>	<p>Federal and Regional level market linkage was created for 2,015 women beneficiaries (1,987 in Oromia and 28 in Afar).</p>		<p>Reviewing last report and using data from BoWCYAs</p>
<p>Indicator 2.1.2 Number of target women with increased capacity on basic business management skills, specific value addition/IGA and entrepreneurship in accessing to BDS services.</p> <p>Baseline: Oromia 26 women received entrepreneurship and business skills trainings Received BDS (counselling, coaching, cooperative formation etc.): 280 women</p>	<p>3,280 women beneficiaries (2,964 in Oromia and 316 in Afar) strengthened business knowledge and entrepreneurship skills.</p> <p>In Adami Tulu JK, Yaya Gulele and Dodolla Woredas in Oromia region an Integrated Functional Adult Literacy Sessions was provided to 1,007 women.</p>		<p>Year-end monitoring data collected through the Bureau of Agriculture in Oromia and Bureau of Pastoral and Agriculture Development in Afar.</p>

<p>Afar- 68 women received training on entrepreneurship and business skills</p> <p>Planned Target: 3100 of targeted women to have improved capacity on business and entrepreneurship.</p>			
<p>Indicator 2.1.3 Percentage of women beneficiaries in the SACCOS (cooperatives) benefitting from gender-sensitive financial and non-financial services</p> <p>Baseline: Oromia: 38.2% of women benefited from financial services The financial services found to be gender insensitive. Afar: None</p> <p>Planned Target: 80% of the number of women targeted in total for both regions.</p>	<p>129% it has surpassed the target as it is a revolving fund, plus training and related business services. The total number of programme target population organized under 15 RUSACCOs has reached 4,527 out of which 4,416 (97.5%) are women.</p>		<p>Reviewing last report and using data from BoWCYAs</p>
<p>Output 2.2 Rural women have increased access to decent wage employment opportunities</p>			
<p>Indicator 2.2.1 Number of women accessing loans for income generating activities (IGAs)</p> <p>Baseline: None</p> <p>Planned Target: 3,000 women beneficiaries</p>	<p>3,723 women beneficiaries (3,284 in Oromia and 439 in Afar) accessed start-up capital/ revolving fund for their individual IGAs.</p>		<p>Year-end monitoring data collected through the Bureau of Agriculture in Oromia and Bureau of Pastoral and Agriculture Development in Afar.</p>
<p>Outcome 3: Rural women have enhanced leadership and participation in their communities and in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programmes.</p>			
<p>Indicator 3.1 Percentage of women beneficiaries jointly deciding on household resources and matters</p> <p>Baseline: Oromia-Almost non-except in their self-help groups /cooperatives</p>	<p>57% (1,193 women were able to make decision out of 2100 targeted to make a joint decision.)</p> <p>Women from Harerge and Jijiga areas that are IDPs in Oromia have high decision-making power and in more</p>		<p>Data from Implementing partners (SWAA-E), through community and district level review meetings and field monitoring and supervisions</p>

<p>Afar - Almost non-except in their self-help groups /cooperatives</p> <p>Planned Target: 60% of women beneficiaries will have equal say on HH resources and matter</p> <p>Indicator 3.2: Percentage of women beneficiaries participating in decision making in rural institutions and communities</p> <p>Baseline: Oromia: only in their self-help groups /women SACCOs Afar-: only in their self-help groups /women SACCOs</p> <p>Planned Target: 10% of women beneficiaries will be participating in leadership and decision making in rural institutions including RUSACCOs and community-based organizations</p>	<p>than 80% of the businesses is led by women.</p> <p>49% of the target (171 rural women) are leading their agro -business cooperatives, RUSACCOs, represented in Kebele Aba Geda council, (as secretary),in the kebele administration etc.</p>		<p>Year-end monitoring data collected through BoWCAs, Implementing partners, and CPA sand JP RWEE Midterm evaluation, report</p>
<p>Output 3.1 Rural women, including young women have enhanced confidence and leadership skills to participate in local governance</p>			
<p>Indicator 3.1.1 Number of women with improved leadership, assertiveness and management skills</p> <p>Baseline: Oromia: 200 of the target women Afar – None</p> <p>Planned Target: 1,500 of the targets will have better skill and confidence</p>	<p>294 rural women (including 44 women leaders/committees who are leading target cooperatives at IDP) strengthened their leadership, assertiveness and management skills</p>		<p>Data collected through BoWCAs, and CPAs.</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>Indicator 3.3.1 Number of institutions and communities advocating for women and girls’ economic rights.</p>	<p>53 institutions including, 24 women led cooperatives (RUSACCOs and Agri-business cooperatives) are advocating for women to access and</p>		<p>Using data from BoWCYAs and Rural Land Administration and Use Directorate under Ministry of Agriculture.</p>

<p>Baseline: Oromia: 2 women Cooperatives Per District; Afar: 2 women Cooperative Per District</p> <p>Planned Target: 22 (13 existing and new women RUSACCCOs and 9 Re-organized Business Groups).</p>	<p>control land and other public services and resources.</p>		
<p>Indicator 3.3.2. Number of regional dialogue mechanisms on agriculture, rural development and land that involve rural women's groups.</p> <p>Baseline – None</p> <p>Target – four</p>	<p>3 Regional dialogues (One in Afar and two in Oromia) has been conducted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forum on Gender and agricultural mechanization; - Women forum in Oromia <p>Consultative meeting in Afar region</p>		<p>Report from MoWCA, Federal Cooperative Agency, proceeding of the programme review meeting</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>Indicator 3.4.1: Number of community members whose misunderstanding /misconception on gender issues and women's economic rights minimized</p> <p>Baseline: There exist a misunderstanding of gender and women right's issues in targeted areas</p> <p>Planned Target: 11,200 of the target community (both men and women)</p>	<p>9,190 community members (7,380 women and 1,810 men) including targeted women, their spouses, members of the JP TWGs and Steering Committees and members of women associations have positive attitude towards gender issues and their misunderstanding about women's economic rights has been removed</p> <p>(89% of the respondents from Oromia and 93% from Afar believed that women should own and use financial income of households equally with men)</p>		<p>Using data from BoWCYAs and cooperative promotion agency and JP RWEE Midterm evaluation report. .</p>
<p>Outcome 4: A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women</p>			

<p>Indicator 4.1: Number of new/ revised agricultural strategies, regulatory frameworks and standards which mainstreamed gender</p> <p>Baseline: There is one agricultural policy which is gender sensitive at national level</p> <p>Planned Target: three (one gender responsive policy, one gender mainstreaming strategy and one implementation guideline the same cascaded to the target regions)</p> <p>Indicator 4.2: Number of relevant institutions incorporated gender equality related targets in their policy and programmes</p> <p>Baseline: TBD</p> <p>Planned Target: three sectoral institutions (Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Education (Integrated functional adult literacy programme and manual) and Federal Cooperative Agency</p>	<p>Three policies are being revised including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender mainstreaming guideline is being revised by the Ministry of Agriculture. • Guideline on Management of the revolving fund procedure was developed. • Agricultural Mechanization Policy is being drafted and efforts are being made to mainstream gender. <p>Four institutions namely; (Ministry of Agriculture, Cooperative Promotion Agency, Livestock bureau and agriculture, Woreda Administrations, Land Administration departments, Education bureau and district level counter parts.)</p>		
<p>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.</p>			
<p>Indicator 4.1.1 Number of experts and officials in agriculture cooperative and other institutions whose capacity increased to conduct gender analysis and integrate gender sensitive indicators and targets in planning and budgeting</p> <p>Baseline: TBD</p>	<p>1,434 (832 women and 602 men) experts of regional and district level BoWCAs, CPAs, BoAs, district and zonal administrations, women associations enhanced their knowledge and skills to respond to the needs of women beneficiaries in Afar and Oromia regions through workshops, gender mainstreaming and</p>		<p>Report from MoWCA, Federal Cooperative Agency, proceeding of the programme review meeting,</p>

Planned Target: 624 experts and government officials working in agriculture, cooperative and other government institutions	GRB, Gender and, gender and leadership trainings and on revolving fund management.		
Output 4.2: Greater availability of tools and data to track progress in the economic empowerment of rural women			
Indicator 4.2.1 WEAI is piloted	Through the JP RWEE WEAI is piloted in the targeted regions.		Programme bi-annual and annual reports
Indicator 4.2.2 Number of research/ availability of evidence-based research) and actions conducted to inform policy development and actions for gender equality Baseline: Only national level Preliminary Gender Profile Planned Target: Three policy advocacy-oriented research.	3 evidence has been generated and shared. (Cost of gender gap in agricultural productivity, Policy brief on agricultural mechanization and Gender Profile)		Using data from BoWCYAs and Rural Land Administration and Use Directorate under Ministry of Agriculture.