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**“ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARD THE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN”  
ANNUAL REPORT  
REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2016**

<p><b>Programme Title &amp; Project Number</b></p>	<p><b>Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results</b></p>
	<p>Rwanda (Kamonyi, Kayonza, Kirehe, Musanze, Ngoma, Nyagatare, Nyaruguru, and Rubavu districts)</p> <p>Direct beneficiaries for 2015-2016: 17,363 (9,625 women, 7,738 men). Indirect beneficiaries for 2015-2016: 83,342 (43,338 women, 40,004 men).</p> <p>Direct beneficiaries supported in 2016: 5,305 (3,863 women, 1,442 men). Indirect beneficiaries reached in 2016: 25, 464 ( 13,241 women, 12,223 men)</p> <p>The strategic result is to secure rural women’s livelihoods and rights in the context of sustainable development and the SDGs.</p>
<p><b>Participating Organization(s)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FAO, IFAD, UNWOMEN, WFP</li> </ul>	<p><b>Implementing Partners</b></p> <p>Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI), National Women Council, Cooperatives/Unions, local authorities. RABOBANK, Imbuto Foundation, Rwanda Chamber of Women Entrepreneurs, Rwanda Environment Management Agency (REMA),</p>

	INADES Formation Rwanda, Rwanda Cooperative Agency (RCA), Duhozanye Association, National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), OXFAM, BAIR, YWCA, SAFE, DUHAMIC ADRI.
<p align="center"><b>Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Programme Duration</b></p>
<p>Total approved budget as per project document: US\$5,000,000 MPTF /JP Contribution<sup>1</sup>: US\$1,288,256 <i>by Agency (if applicable)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FAO US\$ 321,693</li> <li>• IFAD US\$ 311,175</li> <li>• WFP US\$ 319,693</li> <li>• UN Women US\$ 335,695</li> </ul> <p>Agency Contribution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>by Agency (if applicable)</i></li> </ul>	<p>Overall Duration 5 YEARS</p>
<p>Government Contribution <i>(if applicable)</i></p> <p>Other Contributions (donors) <i>(if applicable)</i></p> <p><b>TOTAL: US\$ 1,288,256</b></p>	<p>Start Date: 15.10.2012 Original End Date: 14.10.2017 Current End date: 14.10.2017</p>
<p align="center"><b>Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Report Submitted By</b></p>
<p>Assessment/Review - if applicable <i>please attach</i>  <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Name: Jean-Pierre de Margerie.</li> <li>○ Title: Representative and Country Director.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> The MPTF or JP Contribution, refers to the global amount (sum of Norway's and Sweden's contributions) transferred to the Participating UN Organizations, which is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

Mid-Term Evaluation Report – *if applicable please attach*

Yes  No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy*

- Participating Organization (Lead): World Food Programme
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## ACCRONYMS

CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
EDPRS	Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GALS	Gender Action Learning System
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
JP	Joint Programme
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MINAGRI	Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources
MPTF	Multi-Partner Trust Fund
NAEB	National Agriculture and Export Development Board
NISR	National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda
P4P	Purchase for Progress
RWEE	Rural Women Economic Empowerment
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UNDAP	United Nations Development Assistance Plan
UN WOMEN	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
WFP	World Food Programme

## **NARRATIVE REPORT FORMAT**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Rural Women's Economic Empowerment (RWEE) programme is being implemented in Rwanda jointly by FAO, IFAD, WFP and UN Women. The overarching goal of this five-year joint global programme is to secure rural women's livelihoods and rights in the context of sustainable development based on four outcome areas: improved food and nutrition security; increased income to secure their livelihoods; enhanced leadership and participation in rural institutions and in shaping laws, policies and programmes; and gender responsive policy environment for the economic empowerment of rural women.

#### **I. Purpose**

The Joint Programme's goal is to secure rural women's livelihoods and rights in the context of sustainable development- SDGs

The expected outcomes of the Joint Programme are:

##### **Outcome 1: Improved food and nutrition security**

This outcome deals with promoting the productive potential of women smallholder farmers through ensuring their access to and control over productive resources and services critical to food security and nutrition, and building their capacities in enhanced agricultural production, harvesting and storage. It also addresses their social protection, and enhanced control and management of local food security reserves. It contributes to malnutrition reduction by introducing bio-fortified crops and promotion of kitchen gardens. Furthermore, it contributes to mastering of agricultural techniques that help increase production.

##### **Outcome 2: Increased income to secure their livelihoods and create wealth**

This outcome focuses on creating, supporting and developing rural women-led enterprises, supporting women's role along value chains, by building their capacities, enhancing their income opportunities, and promoting their linkages to high value markets. It supports women-led associations and small-scale businesses in overcoming their supply side constraints so that they can take full advantage of opportunities offered by the market.

##### **Outcome 3: Enhanced leadership and participation in their communities, in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programmes**

This outcome promotes rural women's participation and leadership in rural producer organizations and local governance systems. It involves engaging men such as religious and traditional leaders, chiefs, local authorities and men in general in all activities to guarantee political and social recognition of the role of women by the whole community. Beyond community-level empowerment, actions under this outcome area will also leverage rural women's voice and influence in key policy processes.

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

This outcome catalyzes legislative and policy reforms for the effective enforcement of rural women's land rights and their access to decent wage employment, social protection, and infrastructure. It involves advocating with the Rwandan government, parliament and other relevant stakeholders to deliver greater development outcomes to rural women. Policy assistance will be grounded on sound information and knowledge about the conditions under which national and regional policies are being formulated and implemented. Those conditions include: (i) the social, cultural, economic and political context of policy making; (ii) the way rural gender issues are conceptualized in policy debates, and the extent to which policy themes are prioritized; (iii) the "rules of the game" in policy making processes; (iv) the key players in terms of their specific roles, interests, expectations, etc.; (v) the role of international and regional policy instruments, such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) framework, various treaties and conventions, etc.; (vi) capacities and gaps for effective policy formulation, implementation, monitoring and outcome-based adaptation; and (vii) legal frameworks in place, promoting or hindering women's and youth economic empowerment.

The RWEE country implementation plan is based on the local context, in partnership with the stakeholders and in line with the government's priorities. It contributes to the UNDAF Outcome 1.2: Rwandans able to tap into and benefit from expanded international, regional and local markets, and improved agriculture value chain, and more specifically to UNDAF Output 1.2.1. Strengthened agricultural innovation and value chains.

#### **II. Key achievements of the Programme in Rwanda during the year 2016 include:**

*The Joint Programme on Rural Women Economic Empowerment in Rwanda attained the following key achievements in the reporting period:*

- 79 farmers (54 women and 25 men) were supported to participate to the 11<sup>th</sup> National Agriculture Show held in Kigali from 13<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> June 2016. The event consists in a one-week agriculture exhibition organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources every year.
- 65 Men and 49 Women beneficiaries participated in three study tours organized to strengthen the capacity on Gender Action learning System (GALS) methodology and its results among beneficiaries. These exchange visits took beneficiaries and partners from selected locations to other locations to discuss how the activities were implemented, success, challenges and lessons. GALS methodology is a community-led action learning for gender justice in value chain development. It entails an individual life and livelihood planning, collective action and gender advocacy for change, and institutional awareness-building and changing power relations.
- One solar bubble dryer (SBD), one moisture meter, 3 milling machines, water harvesting equipment and small irrigation equipment were distributed to four cooperatives located in the Eastern and Southern Provinces made of 1,241 beneficiaries (590 women, 651 men).
- 160 Champions (94 Women and 66 Men) from 8 cooperatives in 4 Districts have been trained on GALS. The champions trained their fellows, and the total number of individual trained on GALS is 725 persons (447 women and 278 men).

- 345 vulnerable women headed households have been trained and were supported to establish kitchen gardens and 300 women have been trained on fruit and vegetable production to access better nutrition as well as income and they were provided 3,250 seedlings (1500 tomatoes, 930 banana trees, 410 papaya and 410 grafted avocado). In Rwanda, all the households are classified into four wealth/poverty categories based on criteria such as ownership of assets, income generating activity, employment, physical ability etc. that can help a household to satisfy its needs. The categories have been designed primarily for social protection targeting but have become more popular to many organizations. Most of RWEE beneficiaries were initially under category I and II which are most vulnerable.
- 300 vulnerable women have started to establish Farmer field schools out of the trainings provided to them on agriculture techniques, nutrition and hygiene.
- 400 women heads of households received 1,600 laying hens, which started to produce eggs enabling a total income of 1,815 \$ per month.
- 13 Producer Groups (724 members in total, of which 601 women and 123 men) were supported to upgrade into formal cooperatives. Each one could start the registration process (10 groups have required documents at District level and 3 at National level).
- 16 staff (8 women and 8 men) from 10 partner organizations have been trained on Gender Action Learning System (GALS)
- 1,008 small livestock (pigs) were distributed to 974 beneficiaries (782 women, 192 men) in Nyaruguru District.
- 82 farmers (67 women and 15 men) were trained on gender, entrepreneurship and value chains.
- Regular Joint field monitoring visits were conducted in selected targeted areas in the year 2016.

**i) Narrative reporting on results:**

**A) Outcomes and outputs:**

**Outcome 1: Improved food and nutrition security**

**Output 1.1: Increased access to resources, assets and services critical for their food and nutrition security**

Trainings through farmer field school continued during 2016 with the same beneficiaries: 974 beneficiaries (782 women and 192 men) in Nyaruguru district. The training focused on improved techniques of maize production in order to increase the produce in both quality and quantity.

Empowerment via different trainings especially Farmer Field and Life school permitted to organize 974 beneficiaries (782 women and 192 men) in Nyaruguru District under 3 pre-cooperative which have different objectives: production and processing of maize into flour, tomato

production in green house and production/processing of cassava. The project helped pre-cooperatives to have their own offices and the beneficiaries' contribution is estimated at US\$ 9,542.

Small livestock provided at the beginning of year (1,008 pigs distributed) started to generate revenue by selling piglets , assisting other vulnerable households to start livestock keeping. The production of organic manure has increased and manure being used to improve soil fertility to increase crop productivity.

400 women heads of households from three districts namely Kamonyi, Kirehe and Ngoma received 1,600 chickens raised in 30 common henhouses. The project has supported henhouse establishment by providing construction materials, and startup kits (vaccines, feeds), and providing veterinary services to all the groups. They started to sell eggs to the local market and the value of production is estimated to US\$ 1,815 per month.

Fourteen (14) greenhouses have been installed in 13 cooperatives and this contributed to scaling-up the membership of women cooperatives from 700 to 1,491 (796 additional). In partnership with Imbuto Foundation and the National Agriculture and Export Development Board (NAEB), new cooperative members were trained on tomato production technique using the principles of greenhouse farming, management of tomato upkeep (field preparation, nurturing, spacing, seedling, transplanting, fertilization, irrigation, staking, pruning, and support systems). Greenhouses have played a huge part in changing lives of project beneficiaries by increasing their incomes from sale of produce. . In more than three cooperatives, the members no longer rely on the Government to pay for their health insurance but they are able to pay for themselves, while in others, the cooperatives pay school fees for the children of members.

More than 250 women heads of households from three districts (Musanze, Ngoma and Kamonyi) were trained in kitchen garden establishment, nutrition, hygiene in household and food processing. This will help them to eradicate malnutrition in their families and run the kitchen garden at household level.

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

The Joint programme trained 82 people (67 women and 15 men) on gender, entrepreneurship and value chains in two groups, respectively from 30<sup>th</sup> March to 1<sup>st</sup> April and from 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> April 2016. The training was highly appreciated by the participants as it addressed gender issues faced by rural women in their respective communities and households. During the training, it was noted that men continue to dominate the decisions on agricultural income/expenditures which sometimes result in conflicts. Follow-up actions, coaching and sensitization campaigns will continue in order to foster behavior change.



One Solar Bubble Dryer, one moisture meter, 3 milling machines, water harvesting equipment and small irrigation equipment were distributed to four cooperative located in the Eastern and Southern Provinces made of 1,241 beneficiaries including 590 women. The suppliers installed the equipment and provided technical trainings to the cooperatives for proper use and maintenance. These equipment will help mainly women in those cooperatives and the communities to improve their production, have an effective post-harvest practice for improved quality and increase their income.

Training on hen breeding has been provided to 50 beneficiaries in Kamonyi District with the objective to build capacities of women groups to manage poultry farm in order to produce eggs for consumption and commercialization to increase income

## **Outcome 2: Rural women have increased income to secure their livelihoods**

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

In the framework of capacity building of female household heads, the project has conducted training of women's groups on saving and lending. Five topics have been covered during the training on saving such as saving group formation, saving groups funds, saving groups bylaws, saving group records and saving group meeting procedures. The training had the objective of supporting group leaders to coach their groups, know roles and responsibilities, and develop the statutory bylaws and regulations for their groups.

20 women (2 women for each group) participated in the training on saving; each group of 10 women has elected committee of six persons composed by president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and two advisors. They have started to save from US\$ 0.1 to US\$ 0.2 each per week.

17 Committees members of those groups have learnt how to build a strong cooperative society and how to manage it in terms of production, finance, human resources and member's capacity.

170 lead women farmers in greenhouse farming were also trained on basic business skills in agriculture and treatment of tomato. Participants were introduced to the 4 pillars of marketing, namely consumer and environmental behavior, accountability, and business profitability. Beneficiaries claimed to have gained better understanding of business environment, supply chain and consumer's needs. Trainings received have played a big part to the success of the cooperative in tomato business (It allows them to have an idea in mind of what and how they should work in greenhouses. They also allow cooperative members to get an insight into all the challenges that are associated with greenhouse production).

For each cooperative, a transfer of 1,607,334 RwF (equivalent US\$ 2,038) was given through their bank accounts. The funds transferred were used as their start-up capital, in order for them to be able to purchase the materials needed and be able to maintain the greenhouse till they can start making profit, after the first harvest season.

Through the trainings beneficiaries became more confident and more than 119 individual including 102 women started different small businesses (sale of food products, small livestock rearing, sewing, sale of agriculture inputs etc.) from the borrowed money in their ongoing system of saving and credit introduced by the project.

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

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

**No particular activity was implemented under this output for the reporting year.**

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

Thirteen (13) Producer Groups (724 in total, of which 601 women and 123 men) were supported to upgrade into formal cooperatives. The process of registration has started (10 groups requested official documents at District level and 3 at National level).

The process permitted to train groups in basics of cooperatives, cooperative management and development and they were facilitated throughout the process of registration to Rwanda Cooperative Agency or District or Sector level. Trainings have been conducted in Nyaruguru and Kirehe districts where all groups received manuals on the above topics. The manuals have served as essential tools to be consulted at every cooperative level in order to strengthen their capacities after registration.

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

The output from change catalyst workshops with champions helped the champions to plan for their long term visions. The champions also started to train their neighbors around 725 persons (447 women and 278 men) have been trained by the champions in 4 districts.

Seventy-nine (79) farmers (54 women and 25 men) from selected cooperatives and farmers' groups were supported to participate to the 11th National Agriculture Show held in Kigali from 13<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> June 2016. The event consists in an agriculture exhibition organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources to facilitate exchange between all types of stakeholders involved in agriculture value chains. Participants include model farmers, cooperatives, NGOs, input suppliers, manufacturers and dealers of agriculture equipment and machinery, research centres, service providers, Government agencies, financial institutions and regulatory bodies etc. One category of participants was made of four selected cooperatives, represented by two farmers each, which exhibited their quality products (maize and beans) and sold around 1.147 MT of beans and 0.660 MT of maize during the event. The second category was made of cooperatives and groups who sent representatives to visit the exhibition during a whole day. Through lobbying to different institutions and guided visits, the second group of farmers had the opportunity to learn new experiences on agricultural innovations presented during the event including how to use maize shelling machines, solar bubble dryers, hermetic bags, etc. which were found as key solutions to women who are involved in the post-harvest

handling activities. They also engaged in discussions with different institutions (banks, insurance companies, buyers, agriculture equipment and inputs manufacturers, and dealers, etc.), and other stakeholders in agri-value chains including inputs providers, extension services, and research institutions. The project kept all the institutions contacts to keep the collaboration where needed. The farmers found this forum to be a good opportunity to connect with different stakeholders especially dealers, service providers and buyers.

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

The Joint programme RWEE introduced the GALS approach in 4 districts (Kamonyi, Ngoma, Musanze and Kirehe). Since March 2016, 160 champions (94 women and 66 men) from 8 cooperatives have been trained on the methodology and appreciated it much five basic GALS tools were introduced like vision road journey, gender balance tree, empowerment leadership map, diamond dream and multilane highway.

65 Men and 49 Women beneficiaries participated in three study tours organized to strengthen the capacity on Gender Action learning System (GALS) methodology and its results among beneficiaries. These exchange visits took beneficiaries and partners from selected locations to other locations to discuss how the activities were implemented, success, challenges and lessons. GALS methodology is a community-led action learning for gender justice in value chain development. It entails an individual life and livelihood planning, collective action and gender advocacy for change, and institutional awareness-building and changing power relations.

**Outcome 4: A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of 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 budgets**

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

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

There was no activity directly implemented under outcome on gender-responsive policy for the economic empowerment of rural women. An initial focus has been put on the three first outcomes to improve food and nutrition security, income and livelihoods, and rural women participation. The outcome will be much focused on during the coming phase of implementation.

**Delays in implementation and challenges**

- 1) The lack of a Country Coordinator dedicated to RWEE has been one of the big challenges to the quick progress of the programme activities. Most of staff involved in RWEE implement it in tandem with several other activities within their respective agencies.
- 2) The lack of joint implementation negatively affected the results. This was due to the fact that initially the participating agencies have focused on their former areas of interventions without joint actions on same beneficiaries. Following the HQ mission in November

2016, there was a joint assessment to assisted groups in different areas to identify group needs and the possible support from each of the participating agencies. For the period of 2017-2018, participating agencies have agreed to concentrate on 1,260 beneficiaries (1,027 women & 233 men) located in Kirehe, Ngoma and Nyaruguru districts, most of them being former groups which were assisted by IFAD and FAO who were more vulnerable than others and need accompaniment to attain sustainable results.

- 3) The engagement of the government was mainly effective on the District and the Sector level. The participating agencies have started to engage more with Government level only in late 2016 but there is a plan to further strengthen this partnership in 2017
- 4) IFAD started implementation of activities later because the recruitment of the Implementing Partners (IPs) has taken longer than expected as it required the involvement of HQs. However, in 2016 implementation continued at a more sustained path and activities have now been completed.
- 5) With the first contributions, participating agencies concentrated efforts on the three first outcomes on food and nutrition security, on rural women income; and rural women leadership and participation. The outcome on gender-responsive policy environment for the empowerment of rural women will be focused on in next phases.
- 6) The lack of enough resources slowed down the implementation of activities especially in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters of the year.
- 7) Insufficient visibility/communication materials reduced the large awareness about the project. A common signboard was designed to be used at project sites.
- 8) The Monitoring and Evaluation system needs improvement; the RWEE team is working to improve it for a better tracking of progress, especially at output level with clear baseline and target.

Despite the above stated delays and challenges faced during the implementation, the joint programme is already in progress to solve some of those challenges mainly through different trainings, , regular technical working group meetings, and joint field monitoring to ensure activities' sustainability.

- **Qualitative assessment**

Overall, the Programme has been implemented smoothly despite the above-mentioned challenges. . The participating agencies are working with partners to improve rural women livelihoods and rights. The technical committee is meeting regularly to discuss progress and challenges and measures to overcome them. Rural women are adopting new technologies, and are being connected to other stakeholders in agriculture value chains. GALS methodology is being up-scaled to ensure participatory and equitable decision making and growth within households and in the whole community. Rural women were supported through provision of small livestock and assistance to make kitchen gardens for improved income, food security and nutrition. Participating agencies and partners are strengthening institutional capacity of targeted women groups and cooperatives. However, the season B (February-July 2016) was marked by shortage of rains which negatively affected the overall agriculture productivity in the eastern part of the country and affected food security of many households. The season 2017A (September-February) was characterized by little rainfall that affected crop productivity especially beans. There is a need for more funds to consolidate actions undertaken for sustainability and also up-scale to more beneficiaries with a strong focus on climate smart agriculture and on policy environment within which economic empowerment of women has to happen. During the

course of 2017, JP RWEE will concentrate on small area where all agencies will focus their efforts. The chosen areas are Nyaruguru, Ngoma and Kirehe with 1,260 beneficiaries.

### **Lessons learned & best practices**

- 1) Climate change remains a challenge but this will be a focus for the coming period of programme implementation.
- 2) Same beneficiaries/target areas for joint trainings maximized the impact on rural women. The joint training on gender in agribusiness value chains and entrepreneurship was an example of best practices to uphold.
- 3) There is a need to build JP Country Teams' capacity to implement joint programmes.
- 4) RWEE is an excellent example of how the UN can and does coordinate its work, by leveraging from agencies' respective comparative strengths, and bringing together a broad range of partners towards a common goal.
- 5) Continued dialogue with rural women through farmer organizations, such as cooperatives, can lead to increased participation of women in decision-making structures and serve as a forum for bottom-up advocacy.
- 6) Initiatives such as Savings and Loans scheme were created and have the potential to improve socio-economic conditions of the rural population and specifically women. If women are supported to organize and develop further their saving scheme it can add value to their work, increase their credibility to work with financial institutions and secure loans to expand their farming activities. Rural women need more capacity building and coaching on how they can develop profitable relationships with financial institutions.
- 7) The recognition that farmers' knowledge of natural resources and social conditions is crucial for the success of this programme. The farmers are looking for alternative solutions to land scarcity and climate change and adopt easily new technologies such as greenhouses that they find appropriate to their situation.
- 8) The HQ mission was very supportive as it gave a good orientation for a successful implementation.

ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:

	<u>Achieved</u> Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
<b>Outcome 1 Improved food and nutrition security</b>			
1.1 % change in agricultural production of women farmers in targeted areas disaggregated by crop production and livestock Baseline: 30% Target: 50%			Records from Agronomists at the sector office and Production (Harvest) records from women cooperatives and women groups
1.2 Households food consumption pattern (Dietary diversity) disaggregated by meals per day and food composition ( % change over baseline) <b>Baseline:</b> Consumption Score Southern and Eastern Province is <b>5 &amp; 6</b> Respectively  61% have 2 meals/day <b>Target:</b> Consumption Score of 8  75%	?		Rwanda 2015 Comprehensive food security and vulnerability analysis report & Programme Monitoring Reports
<b>Output 1.1 Rural women have increased access to and control over resources, assets and services critical for their food and nutrition security</b>			
1.1.1 Number of rural women in targeted areas accessing credit disaggregated by individual, women groups and women cooperatives  ( % change over baseline) <b>Baseline:</b> 300 women  24% (Women in Cooperatives)	?		FINSCOPE 2016  Field reports

35% (individual women)  10 % of cooperatives started the process of asking for loans <b>Target: 55%</b>			
1.1.2. Number of rural women accessing extension services (% change over baseline) <b>Baseline: 974</b>  30% <b>Target: 2,604</b>  70%	2,604 (70%)		FAO (Base de données) & Action plan for targets
1.1.3 Number of rural women in targeted areas utilising improved production techniques (% change over baseline)  Baseline: 1,259 (30%) Target: 2,318 (60%)	1,932 (50%)		Programme monitoring report
1.1.4. Number of households with kitchen gardens and small livestock in targeted areas <b>Baseline: 167</b> <b>Target: 1574 HH Kitchen gardens &amp; 754 HH Livestock</b>	1,574 HH Kitchen gardens & 1,374 HH with Livestock		Progress reports
<b>Output 1.2 Rural women have greater capacity to enhance and control local food security reserves</b>			
1.2.1 Number of women-led and managed local food security reserves in target groups disaggregated by household level and cooperatives levels <b>Baseline: 30</b> <b>Target: 1,000</b>	30	Storage equipment will be distributed to women in the coming phase of implementation	Field visit reports and progress reports

1.2.2. % of rural women accessing innovative food processing units Baseline: 29.58% Target: 30%	30%		Progress reports
<b>Outcome 2 Rural women have increased income to secure their livelihoods.</b>			
2.1 Variation of women/ women groups/ cooperatives income generated from their sales to WFP and other markets (% change of baseline) <b>Baseline:</b> 39% <b>Target:</b> 50%		Data to be collected/compiled by 2017	Monitoring reports
2.2 Proportion of rural women in targeted areas with financial independence over their agriculture production incomes (income domain of the WEAI)  <b>Baseline:</b> 31% <b>Target:</b> 62%		Data to be collected/compiled by May 2017	Information from field visit to targeted areas
<b>Output 2.1 Rural women have enhanced entrepreneurship skills and value chains to access markets for their products</b>			
2.1.1. Number of rural women trained in Entrepreneurship skills and value chains <b>Baseline:-</b> <b>Target:</b> 90	67		Training Reports
2.1.2. Number of rural women's cooperatives and women groups with agriculture production sales to markets <b>Baseline:</b> 2 <b>Target:</b> 51	36		Rwanda Cooperative Agency database  Field Reports
Income generated by rural women's cooperatives from their sales to WFP and other markets <b>Baseline:</b> US\$122 <b>Target:</b> US\$25,000		Data to be collected/compiled by May 2017	Rwanda Cooperative Agency database Joint Field Reports by RWEE partners
<b>Output 2.2. Rural women have enhanced capacity and opportunities to play an active role in agribusiness</b>			
Indicator 2.2.1: Number of women		Data to be collected/compiled by May	Field reports



employed who entered the formal labour market or initiated self-employment activities <b>Baseline:</b> 1000 <b>Target:</b> 2500		2017	
Indicator 2.2.2 : Number of women involved in agro-processing and other value adding or innovative agribusiness <b>Baseline:</b> 71 <b>Planned Target:</b> 920	590		Field report
<b>Outcome 3: Rural women have enhanced leadership and participation in their communities and in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programmes.</b>			
Indicator 3.1: % of rural women elected as representatives in rural councils / local authorities % of Producers Organizations led by women <b>Baseline:</b> 43.3% <b>Target:</b> 50%	53 were elected in different rural council (Nyaruguru groups)	This resulted from combination of previous sensitization and training	NEC Reports/database Field reports
<b>3.2.</b> % of rural women who are members of land committees <b>Baseline:</b> - <b>Target:</b> 40%		Data to be collected/compiled by May 2017	Cooperatives records
<b>3.3.</b> % of Producers Organisations led by women <b>Baseline:</b> 78% <b>Target:</b> 85%		Data to be collected/compiled by May 2017	Review of beneficiary cooperatives and groups
<b>Output 3.1 Rural women, including young women have enhanced confidence and leadership skills to participate in local governance</b>			
3.1.1 Proportion of rural girls enrolled in secondary education <b>Baseline:</b> 42.50% <b>Target:</b> -?		Data to be collected/compiled by May 2017	Records from the MINEDUC reports and districts reports
Indicator 3.1.2: Number of women candidates in rural councils' elections <b>Baseline:</b> 30% <b>Target:</b> 50%		Data to be collected/compiled by May 2017	NEC database

<b>Output 3.2: Rural women have greater organizational capacities to form, sustain and participate into POs, cooperatives and unions</b>			
3.2.1 Number of informal rural women's groups who join formally registered POs, cooperatives and unions Baseline: 10% Planned Target: 15%	13 groups of producers (724 in total, of which 601 women and 123 men) were supported to upgrade into formal cooperatives what is the percentage increase?		Programme Progress reports
3.2.2 Number of POs, cooperatives and unions that adopt a gender policy/strategy and/or a women's quota for their board Baseline: 12 Planned Target: 51		Data to be collected/compiled by May 2017	POs and Cooperatives records
<b>Output 3.3: Rural women, including young women, have increased capacity to engage in and influence relevant policy forums at national and regional levels</b>			
3.3.1 Extent to which rural women's coalitions adopt common positions to influence national and regional policy forums on the new SDGs and Rio+20 follow up Baseline: 0 % Planned Target: 45%			Meeting Minutes (Meeting Resolutions)
<b>Output 3.4: Rural women, including young women have enhanced awareness on their rights in a more supportive community/local environment.</b>			
3.4.1 Proportion of rural women and young women participating in community listening clubs <b>Baseline:</b> 30% <b>Target:</b> 60%		Data to be collected/compiled by May 2017	Field reports and progress reports
<b>Outcome 4: A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women</b>			
<b>Indicator 4.1:</b> Total budget and donor funds allocated to programmes benefitting rural women per year <b>Baseline:</b> US\$ 200 million <b>Target:</b> US\$ 300 million (30% increment) <b>Planned Target:30%</b>		Data to be collected/compiled by May 2017	Gender related action plans and budget
<b>Indicator 4.2.</b> Number of countries with special measures to guarantee women's equal rights to landownership and control <b>Baseline: 1</b>	1	This means Rwanda has adopted special measures to guarantee women's equal rights to land ownership and control (though it is not	Land law

<b>Target:1</b>		a direct result of the programme)	
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.			
4.1.1. Number of laws to secure rural women's ownership over productive resources <b>Baseline: 3</b> <b>Target: 5</b>	3		Policy Documents
4.1.2. Number of national policies and laws that make provisions for gender equality and women's empowerment <b>Baseline: 9 policies and laws</b> Target: ?		TBD	Policy Documents
Indicator 4.1.3: Extent to which national land, food, nutrition, agricultural and rural development policies and laws make provisions for gender equality and women's Baseline: 3 laws Target:?	?	TBD	Rwanda's Gender Dividends document; Policy documents
Output 4.2: Greater availability of tools and data to track progress in the economic empowerment of rural women			
4.2.1 Number of countries where the "Women's empowerment in agriculture index" (WEAI) is piloted or mainstreamed in National Statistics <b>Baseline: 0</b> <b>Target: 1</b>	0	WEAI not yet pilot in Rwanda	Policy documents
Output 4.3: An enabling environment is promoted to reflect rural women's priorities in regional policy processes.			
Indicator 4.3.1 Participation rate of rural women in dialogues on agriculture, rural development and land (change over baseline) <b>Baseline: 75%</b> <b>Target: 95%</b>		TBD	Meetings/Conference reports



ii) A Specific Story

**RWEE producing women entrepreneurs in rural Rwanda**

Josephine Mushimiyimana is a 36 years old woman and mother of 4. She was married at the age of 26 years to a poor man in her Bugara village, Maraba cell, Nyagisozi sector, Nyaruguru district.

The only skill she possessed was farming, but her husband didn't have neither land of his own nor a permanent job. She had to engage in casual labor to survive. However the biggest difficulty they faced was that they were having many children that they cannot support.

In 2016 a joint UN program **“Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women (RWEE)** was implemented in her district Nyaruguru. The joint effort was being implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Food Programme (WFP), and UN Women. It aimed to help rural women by creating jobs both on and off farms, as well as exploring market opportunities and ending the cycle of poverty.

Through farmer field school (FFS) approach, Josephine received support in the form of sensitization and training on nutrition, hygiene, and skills to start a business. She received fortified bean seeds, a young pig, and training on establishing a kitchen garden.

RWEE has helped rural women in Rwanda to gain both hope and plan for a better future, by empowering them with knowledge to improve and sustain their own livelihoods. Through the knowledge acquired from the FFS, Josephine hired a field on which she grew beans.

**“Productivity was high because I employed the techniques I learnt from the FFS”**, says Josephine.



Family planning was another course that left an impact on her life.

**“I told my husband we cannot have any more children. We discussed about it and we decided to stop having children. I am now more energetic and more productive than before. We can support them”** she affirms.

Thanks to the project’s support, her family graduated from the first category of Ubudehe programme of the poor of the poorest in society according to the Government of Rwanda Ubudehe socio-economic classification system to category three

The transformation of the lives of the beneficiaries is evident to their neighbors. Mindset change is seen in the way the beneficiaries want to help other women and neighbors who have not been in Farmer Field School (FFS).

The grass root administrations take pride in RWEE beneficiaries because they have become good influence on other women in the project area encouraging

them to work towards ending poverty in their households.

Some women beneficiaries have now become entrepreneurs and better managers of their homes. They have gained admiration from their fellow women and from their spouses. Conflicts in homes ended, while nutrition and hygiene and sanitation are now drivers of the family. Josephine like other beneficiaries pledge to ensure sustainability of the project once it closes.

### **III. Other Assessments or Evaluations (if applicable)**

There was no assessment or evaluation of the Joint Programme during the reporting period.

### **IV. Programmatic Revisions (if applicable)**

The steering committee meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> June recommended to ensure that climate change is adequately taken into consideration during the next phase of the programme implementation. Following that recommendation, a programme concept note was developed highlighting the necessity to integrate climate resilience component into the whole process of the programme implementation.

A mission composed of the RWEE Global Coordinator and two members of the Technical Advisory Committee at global level visited Rwanda from 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> November 2017. The mission left a significant number of recommendations including improving joint implementation, targeting the same beneficiaries for the four agencies, revising the performance monitoring framework and the logical framework, and stronger engagement with the Government and ensuring sustainability. The recommendations included also to make a plan for the short-term (January-April 2017) and a plan for the medium term (one year) based on beneficiary group assessment and where each agency could bring its comparative advantage and focusing on assuring sustainability. Issues of women's access to land, financial inclusion, and climate-smart planning had also to be included.

The Country Team has been working on these recommendations in close collaboration with the Coordination Unit and big progress has been made on that. The assessment of the targeted groups has been performed and a 10 groups of 1,260 beneficiaries (1,027 women and 233 men) were identified for the mid-term and short-term support. The PMF and the Logical framework have been prepared.

### **V. Coordination mechanisms**

- The Technical working group has been meeting regularly and having joint working sessions.
- The RWEE steering committee meeting were held on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 03<sup>rd</sup> November, and 14<sup>th</sup> December 2016 to update the Heads of Agencies on the programme progress and review the implementation progress of HQ recommendations. Heads of participating agencies met also the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture to discuss how to reinforce collaboration with the Ministry at the national level as well. Joint field visits with staff of the MoA are planned for the first quarter of 2017.

### **VI. Resources**

Through the MPTF the RWEE programme in Rwanda received US\$ 1,288,256 for preparatory activities and project implementation. Funds have been used by participating agencies to implement different activities. Below is the current situation by end December 2016 with regards to the fund received from the RWEE Trust Fund:

#### **Rural Women Economic Empowerment - RWEE MDTF RWANDA PROGRAMME BUDGET**

#### **Financial Information**

PROGRAMME BUDGET (Status)					
CATEGORY	FAO (US\$)	WFP(US\$)	IFAD	UNWOMEN	Total
<b>Norway Contribution</b>					
Received	61,000	59,000	50,482	75,000	245,482
Spent	61,000	59,000	50,482	75,000	245,482
Outstanding Balance	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Swedish Cooperation Agency SIDA contribution</b>					
Received	260,693	260,693	260,693	260,695	1,042,774
Spent	176,239	260,693	249,199	257,240	943,371
Outstanding Balance	84,454	-	11,494	3,455	99,403
Total	84,454	-	11,494	3,455	99,403
Received	321,693	319,693	311,175	335,695	1,288,256
Spent	315,158	319,693	311,175	335,695	1,188,853
Outstanding Balance	6,535	-	-	-	6,535