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Resilient nations.



**“ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARD THE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN”  
ANNUAL REPORT  
REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2018**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Programme Title &amp; Project Number</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Programme Title:</b> Accelerating Progress Toward Economic Empowerment of Rural Women in <i>Rwanda</i></li> <li>• MPTF Office Project Reference Number: 00092006<sup>1</sup></li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results</b></p> <p><i>Rwanda</i> (Kirehe, Ngoma and Nyaruguru districts)</p> <p>The strategic result of RWEE is to secure rural women’s livelihoods and rights in the context of sustainable development and the SDGs.</p> <p>Direct participants: 2083 (1713 women and 370 men) participants for 2018</p> <p>Number of participants from the beginning of the Joint Programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct: 18,275 (10,406 women and 7,869 men)</li> <li>• Indirect: 87,446 (46,853 women and 40,594)</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Participating Organization(s)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WFP, FAO, IFAD, UNWOMEN,</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Implementing Partners</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of Agriculture &amp; Animal Resource (MINAGRI), Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF) Rwanda Cooperative Agency (RCA)-(government Partners) and IMBUTO Foundation, INADES Formation Rwanda, CARE International, SAFE, YWCA, ADEPE, Duhamic Adri, Districts, Sectors (Implementing NGOs)</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Programme Duration</b></p>

<sup>1</sup> The MPTF Office Project Reference Number are as follows: ETHIOPIA: 00092000; GUATEMALA: 00092001; KYRGYZSTAN: 00092002; LIBERIA: 00092003; NEPAL: 00092004; NIGER: 00092005; RWANDA: 00092006

<p><b>Agency Contribution</b>          FAO Contribution: \$ 167, 144          WFP Contribution: \$ 260, 593          IFAD Contribution: \$154, 000          UN WOMEN: \$167, 144</p> <p><b>TOTAL CORE:</b></p>	<p>Overall Duration 5 YEARS</p> <p>Start Date: (15 10 2012)</p> <p>Original End Date: (31 12 218)</p> <p>Actual End Date: (31 12 2019)</p>
<p>Government Contribution: (In Kind – <b>11.5 Ha</b> of Land worth <b>\$30,137</b>)</p> <p>Contribution towards WEAI: <b>\$312,727</b></p> <p><b>Nkunganira Programme: Farm inputs</b></p>	<p><b>Report Submitted By</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Name:</b> Edith Heines</li> <li>○ <b>Title:</b> Representative and Country Director</li> <li>○ <b>Participating Organization (Lead):</b> World Food Programme (WFP)</li> <li>○ <b>Email address:</b> <a href="mailto:edith.heines@wfp.org">edith.heines@wfp.org</a>.</li> </ul>
<p>Other Contributions (SIDA): <b>USD 748, 881</b></p> <p><b>227, 275</b> (from IFAD Gender Desk</p>	
<p>TOTAL:</p>	
<p><b>Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.</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>          Mid-Term Evaluation Report – <i>if applicable please attach</i>  <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i></p>	

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACCRONMS

AGSSWG	: Agriculture Sub-Sector Working Group on Gender
AIF	Africa Improved Foods
ECD	: Early Child Development
FAO	: United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
GALS	: Gender Action Learning System
GEWE	: Gender Equality and Women Empowerment
GMO	: Gender Monitoring Office
IFAD	: International Fund for Agriculture Development
JP RWEE	: Joint Programme Rural Women Economic Empowerment
iCCO	: Inter – Christian Cooperation
IGAs	: Income Generating Activities
IPs	: Implementing Partners
ISLG	: Internal Saving and Lending Groups
MFI	: Micro Finance Institution
MIGEPROF	: Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion
MINAGRI	: Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resource
NST	: National Strategy for Transformation
PHHS	: Post Harvest, Handling and Storage
PSTA	: Strategic Plan for the Transformation of Agriculture
RCA	: Rwanda Cooperative Agency
RDDP	: Rwanda Dairy Development Project
RSB	: Rwanda Standards Board
SDGs	: Sustainable Development Goals
SDF	: Sustainable Development Fund
SACCO	: Savings and Credit Cooperative
SEDO	: Social and Economic Development Officers
SMART	: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time bound
ToTs	: Training of Trainers
UN	: United Nations
UNDAP	: United Nations Development Assistance Plan
VSLA	: Voluntary Saving and Loan Association
VSLG	: Voluntary Saving and Loan Group
WEAI	: Women Empowerment Agriculture Index
WFP	: World Food Program
YWCA	: Young Women Christian Associations

## NARRATIVE REPORT FORMAT

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The overarching goal of this five-year joint global Joint Programme on Rural Women's Economic Empowerment (JP RWEE) is to secure rural women's livelihoods and rights in the context of sustainable development based on four outcome areas namely: improved food and nutrition security; increased income to secure their livelihoods; enhanced leadership and participation in rural institutions and in shaping laws, policies and programs; and gender responsive policy environments for the economic empowerment of rural women. In Rwanda, JP RWEE is implemented jointly by FAO, IFAD, WFP and UN Women, with WFP as lead agency. The Joint Programme is implemented in 3 districts and in 9 sectors namely; Kirehe district (Nyamugari, Kigarama, Kirehe sectors), Ngoma district (Murama, Jarama and Sake sectors) and Nyaruguru district (Ngoma, Nyagisozi and Cyahinda sectors).

This Annual report covers a period of January to December 2018 and provides the joint program progress to-date in terms of achievements and results including success stories, good practices, lessons learnt, challenges and major changes that have happened among rural women as a result of the Joint Programme interventions.

The Joint Programme made substantial contributions in 2018 to address the developmental challenges faced by the rural women in Rwanda. Specifically, the Joint Programme support reached 1260 farmers (1027 women and 233 men) in the first half of 2018 and, with more funding in July 2018, an additional 912 (781 women and 131 men) most vulnerable beneficiaries were selected making a total of 2083 (1713 women and 370 men) beneficiaries by December 2018. The Joint Programme targeting was for the most vulnerable individuals with high vulnerability, notably those in lowest economic category (UBUDEHE wealth rank 1 and 2, those living with HIV, the widows, single mothers, survivors of GBV (former prostitutes), teenage mothers and the marginalized groups among others. In addition, the Joint Programme continued to target men as a way to overcome deeply-rooted cultural norms such as defined gender roles and ownership of resources. A total of 89 (78 women and 11 men) beneficiaries dropped out of the Joint Programme as part of the graduation strategy, although small number left for failure to adhere to group guidelines and others for personal reasons, these will be explored in the upcoming midterm review of the programme.

Additional capacity building activities were conducted including; training and provision of equipment and materials. Specifically, 1,149 members of 10 farmer groups (909 women and 240 men) increased their knowledge on the laws governing land, matrimonial regimes and succession in Rwanda, with only 23% of interviewed beneficiaries being familiar with these laws before the training. Because of capacity building in the areas of saving and loans management and business planning, 1,149 members of ten farmer groups (909 women and 240 men) continued to manage and participate in community level Voluntary Saving and Loans Associations (VSLAs) through to 2018. Overall, between the inception of the currently active 50 VSL groups between January and December 2018, the groups accumulated and managed savings amounting to 27, 345,700 Rwf – USD 30,726) in two phases. USD29,881 (RWF 25,712,700)<sup>2</sup> mobilized in the first half of 2018 and 1,633,000Rwf (USD1,835<sup>3</sup>) between July and December 2018. Access to finance by supported rural women improved, bank loans increased from 26.7% before implementation of this phase of the Joint Programme to 35.4% as of December 2018. Specifically, in BIMPINDUKA and KUBINYA groups / cooperatives saw more than 90% of women receive bank loans. While the rate of bank accounts acquisition moved from 78.5% at the beginning of the project to 91.8% at the end of the year after educating them through VSL groups on the importance of working with financial institutions for increased access to finance.

More than 1,087 farmers (884 women and 203 men) have been engaged in tomatoes growing through greenhouse farming since the joint programme began, making a total of 1,491 of women farmers provided with greenhouses and capacity in horticulture management. This year, 318 members of 3 farmer groups <sup>4</sup>(234 women and 84 men); received refresher training in the processing of tomatoes into jam and ketch up for value addition and access to high value

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<sup>2</sup> At the UN operational exchange rate of 1 USD = RWF 860.49 as of June 2018.

<sup>3</sup> At the UN exchange rate of 1USD = Rwf 890 as of December 2018

<sup>4</sup> Kubinya in Kirehe, Terimbere Mugore wa Sake in Ngoma and Twizeimbere Kiyonza in Nyaruguru district

markets. 152 farmers (98 women and 54 men) that received training on post-harvest handling systems (PHHS) were also provided with 302 hermetic bags and 152 tarpaulins for storage<sup>5</sup>.

To enhance jointness and synergy among the program actors/partners, two high-level field visits were organized within the framework of JPRWEE, the first visit was conducted by the JP RWEE Steering Committee with the Permanent Secretary (PS) of Ministry of Agriculture (MINAGRI) to Kirehe and Ngoma District. The joint field visit involved 8 participants including; the PS MINAGRI (Chair JPRWEE SC), Vice Mayor in charge of economic affairs in Kirehe district, Representatives from the four UN agencies (UN Women, FAO, IFAD and WFP) together with the implementing partners and technical team of JPRWEE. The second visit was to Nyaruguru district, participants included three UN heads of agencies, the JPRWEE Global coordinator, 2 MINAGRI officials, heads of implementing partners' organizations, Nyaruguru acting Mayor and two directors, Cyahinda sector executive secretary and other JPRWEE technical members. The field allowed women groups to showcase outcomes, outputs and progress of the programme to all participants, there was enhanced jointness and synergy among the program actors/partners, collection of firsthand information from beneficiaries, observing real change at household level resulting from the programme initiatives such as GALS, PHHS, CSA technologies among others. Communication and KM materials were collected that could be used in various communication channels to increase the visibility of the JPRWEE.

As a result of resource mobilization and partnership efforts, advocacy for more land to Joint Programme participants yielded acquisition of 11.5 HA of agriculture land worth USD 30,924, Implementing Partners contributed 50,000,000 Rwf (USD 57,078) to JP RWEE beneficiaries which funded chicken projects for vulnerable RWEE women in Ngoma and Kirehe district and supported small scale irrigation in Nyamugari sector, Kirehe district. A proposal worth USD 4,248,246 for possible funding has been accepted in the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) -UNDAP II joint programmes which is expected to fund country level Joint Programme interventions till 2023<sup>6</sup>. MINAGRI through its Nkunganire subsidy programme provided support to JPRWEE cooperatives in form of farm inputs and in partnership with the ministry, USD 322,411 has been mobilized to support the WEAI survey in Rwanda for which Joint Programme participants shall be involved. The survey findings/data are expected to inform policy and future projects on Women Economic Empowerment in Rwanda.

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<sup>5</sup> Each beneficiary received 2 bags and 1 tarpaulin

<sup>6</sup> The proposal is to further position women economic empowerment across the NST1 and UNDAP II pillars of Transformational Governance, Economic Transformation, and Social Transformation.

## I. Purpose

The purpose of the Joint Programme is to secure rural women's livelihoods and rights in the context of sustainable development- SDGs. Under this context, the interventions and results were informed by a number of strategic documents including; the JP RWEE global and country documents, Rwanda United Nations Development Assistance Plan 2013 – 2018 (UNDAP1) and partly the new UNDAP 2 specifically in its outcome 2, 5 and 6; the JP RWEE annual work plan of 2017/2018 and 2018/2019; Rwanda's development priorities as outlined in the Vision 2020 and Vision 2050, the National Strategy for Transformation (NST1 2018 – 2024) mainly in its priority areas 5, 6 and 7. The 2018 interventions were also in line with the Strategic Plan for the Transformation of Agriculture (PSTA4 2013-2018), and the Rwanda National Gender Policy. These strategic documents outline interventions aimed at moving agriculture from a low production, subsistence-based to a market oriented, value-creating sector that improves rural incomes, addresses poverty and benefits women and men equally in line with Joint Programme objectives.

The expected outcomes of the Joint Programme are:

**Outcome 1:** *Rural women's improved food and nutrition security which aims at increasing the productive potential of women smallholder farmers through their access to and control over productive resources and services critical to food security and nutrition. It also addresses their social protection, and enhanced control and management of local food security reserves.*

**Outcome 2:** *Rural women's increased income to sustain their livelihoods which focuses on creating, supporting and developing rural women-led enterprises, supporting women's role along value chains, 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:** *Rural women's enhanced leadership and participation in rural institutions and in shaping laws, policies and programmes which promotes their agency in rural producer organizations, cooperatives and unions and in local governance.*

**Outcome 4:** *More gender responsive policy environment for the economic empowerment of rural women; this 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.*

## II. Results

This section pays particular attention on the Programme **results / and changes** that have taken place in 2018. It has three parts including; i. Narrative section; ii. Indicator based performance assessment; and iii. Specific stories.

**i) Narrative reporting on results:**

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

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

In an effort to increase access and control over resources, 1,149 members from ten farmer groups (909 women and 240 men) were trained on the laws governing land, matrimonial regimes and succession in Rwanda, which resulted into increased knowledge, now they have extensive information on their rights and obligations as land owners, and on land registration procedures, as well as on donation and succession provisions applicable in Rwanda. Beneficiaries from the Joint Programme confirmed that they feel more secure engaging in administrative procedures related to their land ownership, and, equally importantly, that they are aware of the mechanisms they could make use of should their land and property rights not be respected. With land as a key productive resource for women farmers, secured ownership enhances farmers' opportunities to plan and predict their crop yields over a prolonged period. Women farmers are able to settle inter-family and inter-household conflicts, as they can refer to nation-wide applicable legal provisions and seek counsel if necessary to resolve property-related disputes.

Advocacy and resource mobilization efforts during the year resulted into land acquisition for the Joint Programme farmers' groups totaling to 11.5 ha (4 ha for COTECO, 2.5 ha for Urumuli, 2 ha for BA IMPINDUKA and 1.5ha for Terimbere Mugore wa Sake, and 1.5 ha for Kubinya). Land is used for growing irish potato, maize and vegetables in Nyaruguru, Ngoma and Kirehe districts. Food production is expected to increase in the coming season resulting from increased agriculture land.



***Above Left; vegetable growing in a kitchen garden in Kirehe and right cabbage garden for Bimpinduka in Nyaruguru***

Capacity building in fruit tree planting (3200 avocados and 1880 trees mangoes) and nursery bed management led to production of fruit tree planting in the community critical for environmental protection and improved nutrition. The introduction of cassava resistance variety (to mosaic) in Nyaruguru allowed the community to also access production materials that were no longer accessible in the area, 65,000 cassava cuttings were given for planting on 6.4 Ha with a plan to provide cassava cuttings to other cooperatives to be processed in future into cassava flour. The season 2019 A was characterized by empowerment of new beneficiaries, making available farm inputs for example 4550 kgs of biofortified beans seeds were distributed to Nyaruguru women groups. As a result of rainwater harvesting techniques introduced to 350 JP RWEE participants, in 2018 facilitated children and their mothers with spare time to undertake other productive activities such as school homework for children, since time and distance for fetching water reduced

tremendously from 2hours to no time and 3kms to zero kms. Availability of water at the household level improved hygiene status and reinforced collaboration and unity in the community.

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

The distribution of 2284 hermetic bags and 1142 tarpaulins to 1142 beneficiaries (908 women and 234 men) led to an improvement in the quality of production and reduction of post-harvest losses in maize, sorghum and beans, which are the main staple crops in Rwanda. Beneficiaries confirmed reduced harvest losses<sup>7</sup> and how this led to an improvement in food availability in their households.

As a result of the Post-Harvest Handling and Storage (PHHS) training in the 3 districts of JP RWEE that benefited 152 farmers (98 women and 54 men) through specific demonstration on the use of hermetic storage(bags), participants started practicing the new knowledge and skills about moisture content and how to avoid Aflatoxins in the grain, resulting in the improvement of the quality and safety of grains such as maize, sorghum, soybeans and beans. Therefore, access to high value markets in Rwanda has been enhanced. The practical and interactive nature of the training allowed farmers to easily relate their harvest routine activities to presentations during the training.

The following table shows the number of beneficiaries who received equipment per district:

NYARUGURU		KIREHE		NGOMA		TOTAL	
Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
698	223	118	10	92	1	908	234

A refresher training in the use of PHHS equipment to 50 Train of Trainers resulted in knowledge and skills transfer to 22-23 farmers per trainer. The beneficiaries made a commitment to continue using all PHHS equipment towards improved productivity. The Joint Programme team will continue to track the application of PHHS to improve productivity. In addition, 20 Trainer of trainers (ToTs) were conducted on rain water tank construction and 14 model tanks were built, 2 in each sector. As a result, 350 beneficiaries were supported to construct water tanks. These tanks continue to be a model for other farmers to adopt the technology and more water tanks are planned for 2019.



*Above; PHHS materials being used by the JPRWEE beneficiaries for drying and storage*

<sup>7</sup> Precise data to be collected during the upcoming midterm evaluation



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

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

Due to several initiatives implemented to enhance entrepreneurship skills, increase income and improve market access among rural women, the following major results were achieved during the year;

### **Entrepreneurship skills**

Because of continuous support to rural farmers in climate smart agriculture, mainly through tomatoes farming in Green houses, 318 members from 3 farmer groups (234 women and 84 men) in Kirehe, Ngoma and Nyaruguru Districts, have been consistently improving the quality and quantity of their harvests.

For example, in season 2018A, Twitezimbere Cooperative in Nyaruguru was able to harvest 12MT of maize and 3MT of beans alone and sold 5MT of maize to Africa improved foods one of the big buyers working with WFP/FtMA initiative and received 1,094,310Rwf (\$ 1,217), sales from 132 Kgs of tomato were 152,000 Rwf (\$169) and the cooperative also made savings worth 651,000 (\$724). Another Cooperative Kubinya harvested 420 kgs of tomatoes sold for 786,440Rwf (\$ 875), made savings worth 632,000Rwf (\$703) in SACCO and paid medical insurance for 31 members totaling to 93,000Rwf (\$103).

The training on business skills allowed farmers to better understand their income and expenses, improved book keeping, and better management of VSLAs financial records (savings and loans). As a result, 184 (180 women and 4 men) have taken up entrepreneurial market orientated activities such as selling vegetables, sorghum beer, clothes, rearing and selling small livestock beyond subsistence farming from their own savings generated through the VSLAs.

The training on Financial Management benefited 83 group members (26 males and 57 females) representing 10 groups/cooperatives, of which 50 participants (21 men and 29 women) were from Nyaruguru district, 15 participants (1 male and 14 female) from Ngoma district and 18 participants (4 men and 14 women) from Kirehe district. Trainees included governing board of directors, executive supervisory committee members and 2 ordinary members. After the training participants were committed to set up a proper bookkeeping as a new practice learnt in order to increase and manage well their cooperative assets. After the sessions of training, different resolutions were made like for example, trainees would set up a proper bookkeeping system as soon as possible and to improve the management of their cooperative assets and resources; the Joint Programme team will follow up this commitment to support its implementation in the following phase. Refresher courses in internal audit techniques and book keeping shall be organized as well as support cooperatives in recruitment of accountants for the groups as this was their plan.

For example, in season 2018A, Twitezimbere Cooperative in Nyaruguru was able to harvest 12 MT of maize and 3 MT of beans alone and sold 5 MT of maize to Africa Improved Foods (AIF) one of the big buyers working with WFP/FtMA initiative and received 1,094,310Rwf (\$ 1,217), sales from 132 kg of tomato were 152,000 Rwf (\$169) and the cooperative also made savings worth 651,000 (\$724). Another Cooperative Kubinya harvested 420 kg of tomatoes sold for 786,440Rwf (\$ 875), made savings worth 632,000Rwf (\$703) in SACCO and paid medical insurance for 31 members totaling to 93,000Rwf (\$103). Baseline data on sales per cooperative is not available however changes in sales over a period of time shall be explored during the midterm review.

### **Access to market and networking**

490 (359 women and 131 men) beneficiaries from the four farmers groups (Terimbere Mugore wa Sake, Twitezimbere, Kubinya and Bimpinduka) involved in green house farming harvested and sold 12.3 Tons of tomatoes and generated a total income of US\$ 4,591. As results of the Joint Programme intervention, all cooperative members were able to pay their health insurance and to address basic family needs such as food, education and clothes.



*Left; Marie-Rose Maniraguha is watering tomato plants and right tomatoes ready for harvesting at Twitezimbere green house*

The Joint Programme empowered the four cooperatives to supply their harvest on the local markets and to hotels in the nearest town (one of the examples is Hotel IBIS, in the capital city of Southern Province). Through partnership with the FtMA initiative at WFP, Twitezimbere Cooperative in Nyaruguru was for the first time able to meet the requirements of big sellers and through aggregation of their maize, sold to Africa Improved Foods (AIF) for the first time.

In June 2018, 72 farmers (58 women and 14 men) represented the 10 groups of JP RWEE in the 13th National Agri-show held at Mulindi Showground, in Gasabo District, from 26/06-03/07 under the theme “Invest in innovation and agribusiness to transform agriculture”. Through interaction and discussion with other exhibitors, the Joint Programme participants benefited from information exchange on new products, services, potential partnerships in the agriculture sector, knowledge and experience sharing regarding agriculture innovations such as irrigation technology by GREENTECH, markets and investment opportunities about different products and services. Examples of such opportunities include; credit opportunities for smallholder farmers in DUTERIMBERE MFI LTD, effective and efficient Greenhouse farming by BALTON Rwanda, improved cassava production by RAB, and exchange with Hinga Weze project members about milling and shelling machine distributors which the beneficiaries committed to explore further for future uptake.

More so, 18 beneficiaries (12 women, 6 men) from Urumuri cooperative with one facilitator and one Sector cooperative officer participated in a study tour on agro-processing in IABM (Iterambere Ryabahinzi Borozi Ba Makera) cooperative in Muhanga district, the cooperative has a big maize processing plant and has been doing Agro processing for over 10 years hence. The participants benefited from knowledge and awareness of strategies to increase cooperatives’ production, understood the process used to make quality flour, strategies used to buy produce from other farmers, marketing strategies and identification of sources of packaging materials.

### **Access to finance**

Access to finance is a key driver in the creation, survival and growth of business. Lack of finance typically prevents the creation and running of businesses.

The structure of the Joint Programme targeted beneficiaries showed that their income levels were very low, and that they require a level of financial literacy that would allow them to make informed and effective decisions over their financial resources. Therefore, Village Saving and Loans Association (VSLA) approach was deemed the most promising approach to promote financial inclusion amongst the Joint Programme beneficiaries.

During the period under reporting, the VSLA approach has enabled beneficiaries to create savings and loans groups, equipped them with skills to manage their household cash flow, access small loans and has helped them to invest in income generating activities (sell of vegetable and seeds sales, production of locally brewed sorghum drinks and the

sale of dairy products) and meet basic needs depending on individual saving goals (paying schools fees or school food, improving their home, buying a new house etc).

Resulting from the training on financial inclusion, 50 VSL sub-groups (from existing 10 farmers' groups) have been formed and are currently operational. A total of 1,163 members of the 10 Joint Programme groups (920 women and 243 men) have been saving and lending among themselves for different purposes including; investment in their own venture (micro businesses) or meeting basic family needs. Overall, during the period under review, the 50 VSL groups formed have accumulated and managed savings amounting to USD 34, 627 (RWF 30,818,500)<sup>8</sup>.

Furthermore, there has been improvement among targeted beneficiaries in working with formal financial services, during the period under review, bank loans increased from 26.7% to 35.4% as of December 2018. Specifically, in BIMPINDUKA and KUBINYA groups / cooperatives, more than 90% of women (150 out of 167 women) received bank loans. Likewise, the rate of bank accounts acquisition moved from 78.5% at the beginning of the project to 91.8% at the end of the period, afterwards educating them through VSL groups on the importance of working with financial institutions for increased access to finance.

The 318 members of 3 farmer groups (234 women and 84 men in total, with one group for each beneficiary district); who were trained in tomato processing in 2017 reinforced their skills through a refresher training in 2018 and the use of newly distributed farm equipment in support of the production of tomato ketchup and jam (Tomato processing). For these products to be sold on local markets and in hotels, a certification from the Rwanda Standards Board (RSB) is required, lack of RSB certification is currently one of the major challenges hindering market accessibility by the groups in tomato processing. The preconditions for being awarded RSB certification are divided into 11 subsections, referring to legal requirements, the processing area and equipment, packaging and labelling, overall quality control, storage and transformation, personnel, documentation and records, hygiene facilities and staff safety and health. Through the partnership with local authorities, the Terimberere Mugore Wa Sake and Kubinya Cooperatives of Ngoma and Kirehe districts respectively secured storage space for their ketchup and jam. The beneficiaries continue to produce ketchup and jam for their own consumption and sales to individual consumers on a very small scale. This year Kubinya was also able to participate in an expo in Nyagatare to share knowledge and experience.

In June 2018, 72 farmers (58 women and 14 men) represented the 10 groups of JP RWEE in the 13th National Agri-show held at Mulindi Showground, in Gasabo District, from 26/06-03/07 under the theme "invest in innovation and agribusiness to transform agriculture". Through interaction and discussion with other exhibitors, the Joint Programme participants benefited from information exchange on new products, services, potential partnerships in the agriculture sector, knowledge and experience sharing regarding agriculture innovations such as irrigation technology by GREENTECH, markets and investment opportunities about different products and services. Examples of such opportunities include; credit opportunities for smallholder farmers in DUTERIMBERE MFI LTD, effective and efficient Greenhouse farming by BALTON Rwanda, improved cassava production by RAB, and exchange with Hinga Weze project members about milling and shelling machine distributors which the beneficiaries committed to explore further for future uptake. The JP RWEE team in Rwanda will build on this vast information and opportunities to support the rural women efforts to increase their productive potential, enhance income opportunities and promote their linkages to high value markets.

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<sup>8</sup> At the UN operational exchange rate of 1 USD = RWF 890.00 as of December 2018.



*Photo: Above and below; JPRWEE beneficiaries visiting different stands in Agri-show of June 2018*



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

The training on Financial Management benefited 83 group members (26 males and 57 females), of which 50 participants (21 males and 29 females) from Nyaruguru district, 15 participants (1 male and 14 female) from Ngoma district and 18 participants (4 males and 14 females) from Kirehe district. Trainees included governing board of directors, executive supervisory committee members and 2 ordinary members. After the training participants were committed to set up a proper bookkeeping as a new practice learnt in order to increase and manage well their cooperative assets. After the sessions of training, different resolutions were made like for example, trainees would set up a proper bookkeeping system as soon as possible and to improve the management of their cooperative assets and resources; the Joint Programme team will follow up this commitment to support its implementation in the following phase. Refresher courses in internal audit techniques and book keeping shall be organized as well as support cooperatives in recruitment of accountants for the groups as this was their plan.

*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.*

About 20 women in COTECO, 49 women in Urumuli, 30 in Bimpinduka and 30 in Abahangudushya are in different positions of leadership including; village committees, school committees, NWC, and different clubs (Hygiene, GBV, Nutrition, church). Participation in leadership roles has greatly boosted rural women's confidence and provided an avenue to participate in community decision making. More so, a new group of persons living with disability (40 members) was created by a facilitator trained by the Joint Programme in Nyagisozi sector using the same approach and with objective of supporting them out of their vulnerability state

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

JP RWEE cooperative leaders and local leaders in the 3 districts of intervention had their leadership skills enhanced through cooperative governance and principles of an economics training programmes. The training benefited 150 participants (109 females and 41 males). Participants included; Internal Saving and Lending Groups (ISLG) facilitators, members of governing boards and audit committees and 2 ordinary members for each of the 10 supported groups as well as Social and Economic Development Officers (SEDOs) from cells where the cooperatives have their offices.

Participants were made aware of the role good laws and conflict management have in the good governance and development of a cooperative; among other things. It is envisaged that this new knowledge and capacities shall be put into practice to further close any existing gaps in cooperative governance, build peace and harmony among members and will allow members to consult the relevant laws whenever need arises to avoid any legal mistakes that could eventually have an implication on cooperative resources.

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

The 150 participants (109 females and 41 males) in the cooperative governance training made commitments to improve the governance of their organizations as a result of the topics covered including; good governance and bad governance, the principles of economic cooperative, the requirements to set up good governance, introduction on law governing cooperatives and informal groups.

Participants and their cooperatives have already started to put into practice some of the knowledge and skills acquired from the governance training. For example; taking disciplinary actions against cooperative leaders who abuse members' rights or dismiss them, in accordance to laws and regulations; member are able to claim their rights and follow up their cooperatives assets management, carefully, vigilance while voting cooperatives' leaders, members follow recommended criteria for selection of eligible candidates, they are also able to amend laws and internal regulations where necessary, fairly and impartially solve conflicts. Other areas yet to be implemented include; involvement of cooperative members in decision making, provision of necessary information during general assemblies, roll out/transfer acquired knowledge to all cooperatives' members by trainees and to more understand law n° 50/2007 of 18/09/2007 providing for the establishment, organization and functioning of cooperative organizations in Rwanda.

An exchange visit was organized on February 23rd, 2018 where 135 participants (105 visiting champions, 7 local leaders, 5 hosting champions, 7 staff from partners who are implementing the Joint Programme (WFP, YWCA, SAFE) participated. The visit provided an opportunity to create awareness on GALS to the field technicians of a dairy

project under the Ministry of Agriculture's Rwanda Diary Development Project (RDDP) staff. The event was also attended by 11 field coordinators from 11 districts.

*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.*

Within the framework of the Agriculture Sub-Sector Working Group on Gender (AGSSWG) meetings convened by the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI) on 05 March and 25 June 2018, members of the JP RWEE Technical Working Group provided substantial inputs to the processes surrounding the developments of the Gender Strategy for the new Strategic Plan for the Transformation of Agriculture (PSTA4) and the relaunching of the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) in Rwanda. Both the WEAI and the PSTA4 are strategic instruments to track the progress of rural women's economic empowerment against set targets and to increase stakeholders' accountability towards well-coordinated gender equality goals within the agricultural sector. Within their capacity as AGSSWG members, the Joint Programme technical working group members contributed to the finalization of the Terms of Reference of the Consultant who will work on the development of the PSTA4 as well as to the conceptualization of the re-launch of the WEAI in Rwanda with the new survey questionnaire. Both processes will see a further collaboration between MINAGRI and the JP-RWEE within the framework of the 2018/2019 program phase.

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

A collaboration between the JP RWEE and MINAGRI resulted into mobilization of \$ 312,727 for conducting the WEAI survey in Rwanda. Through MINAGRI, other Partners (DFID and Rwanda Diary Development RDD project) decided to support this activity while FAO accepted to lead this process. Initial discussions commenced, and implementation of this activity is planned for 2019. The WEAI data is expected to provide progress of rural women's economic empowerment in Rwanda and increase stakeholders' accountability towards well-coordinated gender equality goals within the agricultural sector.

JP RWEE through WFP as lead agency and Inter-Christian Cooperation (ICCO) of Netherlands, a member of NPM (Platform for financial inclusion) have collaborated to carry out two studies on bean and maize value chain and women in finance value chain. The two studies have commenced and are expected to be completed in the second quarter of 2019. The studies are an effort towards closing existing gaps in data needed to track progress in the economic empowerment of rural women. For example, the studies will provide information on key constraints that hinder women to effectively participate in economic empowerment activities, why women often drop out of the chains when agri-finance becomes more commercial and value chains are professionalized and what contributes to increased access and empowerment of women as well as graduation pathways for women among other things. The studies will also inform financial institutions that work with women, Women Movements, other UN agencies, cooperative agencies, MINAGRI, actors in food systems, the National Gender Machinery (NGM) in Rwanda for planning and resource allocation purposes<sup>9</sup>. Potential donors will also use the study findings to inform future projects that wish to close the gender issues in maize and bean value chains.

A midterm evaluation for the Joint Programme is planned to commence next year and it is envisaged that the evaluation will provide data on major programme progress and the status of major indicators, it will also provide lessons and challenges necessary for future projects and programmes.

As a result of the household methodology known as Gender Action Learning System (GALS), there was improved understanding of natural resources management at both the community and household level in Kirehe and Ngoma districts which eventually contributed to building community livelihood planning and helped smallholder farmers at

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<sup>9</sup> The studies will present the situation of value chains and value chain finance highlighting the gaps for women. Actors involved in food systems, GEWE programs, policy makers and development organizations will use the findings.

household level to understand the effect of their interactions with people, landscapes and ecosystems. A range of participatory, learning and action techniques to support a rights-based approach to implementing this methodology was applied.

To further boost economic empowerment of women, a training was organized for GALS champions under JP RWEE on five tools of GALS methodology namely; the road vision journey, the gender balance tree, the social empowerment map, the multilane highway, challenge action tree, and diamond dream, as a result, women's position as economic actors was strengthened by addressing their exclusion from informal and formal economic processes and structures. GALS methodology has contributed to reduction in women's exploitation, marginalization and vulnerability; women are able to participate in and benefits from economic opportunities and build prosperity for themselves, their families and their communities.



*Photo above: GALS Champions in Kirehe district holding their vision tree diagrams during one of the training sessions*

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

The Joint Programme contributed technically and financially to the revision of the five-year agriculture gender mainstreaming strategy for MINAGRI. The strategy objective is to strategically facilitate gender mainstreaming across the agriculture sector on clear outcomes, outputs, indicators and measurable targets. The strategy will also provide a guide to GEWE (gender equality and women empowerment) initiatives in the agriculture sector of Rwanda.

- **Describe any delays in implementation, challenges, lessons learned & best practices**

### **Challenges:**

Farmers' groups trained in agro-processing (tomato jam and Ketchup) are eagerly looking forward to obtaining a certification from the Rwanda Standards Board (RSB) as a partial fulfillment to be able to sell their products on the market. These include provisions for uninterrupted water and electricity access as well as sanitation facilities. During the reporting period, the beneficiaries successfully procured pro-forma invoices to estimate the costs of such installations and they met with local authorities to explore support opportunities (e.g. provision of land for the construction of additional installations) at district and sector level. Unfortunately, this requires a big amount of

investment beyond the Joint Programme and beneficiaries themselves. However, beneficiaries have been sensitized to access wage paying jobs in Agro processing if opportunities arise. The joint programme shall use the opportunity of having CARE international onboard as one of the implementing partners with experience in financial inclusion, to explore possible ways of developing business plans so the women can have the funds to access RSB certification.

Authentic and timely data challenge is yet to be fully tackled due to different reasons, among which: dealing with rural illiterate farmers' groups who have limited capacity to keep records, joint M&E planning which can become quite complex, the importance of developing results framework that clearly articulates SMART indicators, baselines, targets and means of verification. A results-based management approach will continue to be employed during the new programme phase, reinforcing capacity development efforts for stakeholders to ensure the longer-term utilization and sustainability of new knowledge and abilities resulting from programme's support. A programme evaluation is also planned in the next phase as well as several other studies all expected to close the data gap.

During the phase covered by this report, 109 (98 women and 11 men) beneficiaries left the programme, some were more independent, and this was part of the graduation strategy, some failed to continue to adhere to the women group dynamics, while there were no clear reasons. The JP RWEE technical team in partnership with Implementing Partners will carry out a specific field tracer to assess how many participants left for what reasons, in the next phase. Additional participants were identified to close the gap resulting from this drop-out.

The JP faced some challenges with the implementation of the green house approach for farming, especially with maintenance due to adversity to climate change induced risks, In Ngoma and Kirehe, tomato growing faced the irrigation interruption due to the damage of the gutter and the roof top damage of the greenhouse. For Terimbere Mugore wa Sake, the main challenge encountered was drought which implied scarcity of water which affected yields. While the challenge for Twizembere Kiyonza was the damage of their greenhouse roof that requires about Rwf1,500,000(USD 1,669) to be repaired, an assessment and cost estimation of repairing the roof top has been done, with the Cooperative is contributing an amount of 350,000Rwf (\$389) out of cooperative account towards the repairs which is a good sign for ownership and sustainability of the programme interventions while the project is topping up the balance, repair has been scheduled during the first quarter of 2019 While for the green house of Twitezimbere Mugore wa Sake, the repair of the gutter is scheduled in January 2019. To mitigate water scarcity, this cooperative has bought and installed a water tank that can store much water in the worst scenario, members bought watering can to transport water from the source to the green house, tasks and rotation plan have been shared among members.

## **Best Practices**

**Beneficiaries' targeting:** With additional funding for the current period, an additional 912 (781 women and 131 men) beneficiaries were selected making a total of 2083 (1,713 women and 370 men) beneficiaries for the current period (July 2018 to June 2019). The Joint Programme made sure to target the most vulnerable individuals meeting the criteria of high vulnerability, notably those in economic category (UBUDEHE) <sup>10</sup>1 and 2, those living with HIV, the widows, single mothers, survivors of GBV (former prostitutes), teenage mothers and the marginalized groups among others. While the process of selection and mobilization of the new members was successful, the early days involved stigma tendencies and low esteem; these categories of beneficiaries have however now fully been integrated in the joint programme and have more confidence to speak out and share their story also to inspire other women they can claim their rights both in terms of resources and human rights. Moreover, active participation in programme interventions such as GALs, Trade in both agriculture and non-farm products and involvement in modern agriculture practices such as greenhouses, use of compost, rotation agriculture, use of fertilizers and improved seeds brought an overall improvement in the beneficiaries' livelihoods where for example their families have moved from having 1 meal to 3 meals a day, they have access to medical insurance (Mutuelle), some families have moved from category 1 to 2 of Ubudehe. The women changed from stigma victims to awareness creators, from a lonely and sorry state to active members of the women groups.

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<sup>10</sup> Ubudehe refers to the long-standing economic categorization of all Rwandans, it is a cultural practice of collective action and mutual support to solve problems within a community. Category 1&2 are the most vulnerable groups in terms of economic status. The Ubudehe Programme has 4 categories where 3 is for the working and self-sustaining category while 4 is for the highest economical means such as heads of institutions, senior government officials and big business owners/employers



**Partnerships:** Strong partnership with the Government of Rwanda and specifically the Ministry of Agriculture, Districts and sector leadership and local NGOs led to a number of good practices among JPRWEE participants. For example; good results from the JP RWEE increased visibility of implementing partner (INADES Formation Rwanda) and was able to mobilize additional funds from (ALBOAM) a Spanish NGO to support more beneficiaries in Nyaruguru, Huye and Nyamagabe (900 beneficiaries) and Ngoma & Kirehe (1600 beneficiaries) using the Joint Programme approach. Notably, the Farmer Field and Life School approach was scaled up in those districts using technicians trained by the joint programme.

**Sustainability:** 5 cooperatives supported by the Joint programme started to extend their activities in small scale irrigation by using government schemes such as Nkunganire Muhinzi (translated as Support a Farmer) for sustainability of intervention. Members of COTECO, Abahangudushya and URUMULI were able to pay 50 % of the budget towards an irrigation pump.

### **Communication and Visibility:**

With the objective of increasing visibility, a Joint Programme Fact Sheet<sup>11</sup> was documented and shared during the World Food Day national celebrations in Kirehe district. Joint Programme partners, HoA and beneficiaries actively participated and showcased some of the initiatives such as GALS, PHHS, VSLA etc, along with group achievements. The minister of MINAGRI was the guest of honour.

The Joint Programme installed 10 sign boards, at each cooperative location. These signboards have played a major role in directing to partners where the Joint Programme implementation sites are located. Two articles with support from WFP communication team were produced and published on WFP online sites. Terms of reference to produce the Knowledge Management (KM) and Communication products have been developed in line with the KM framework for the Joint Programme. These activities were done to increase the visibility of the programme in implementation sites and among partners.

A Team of 9 Journalists from US and Africa (organized by WFP in partnership with FAO) visited the JP RWEE programme interventions in May 2018 to learn about the impact of the programme on rural women in Rwanda and the community. The journalists have since written about the Joint Programme together with other UN interventions in Rwanda<sup>12</sup>. The Joint Programme team was actively involved in organizing and participating in this activity which enhanced the Joint Programme synergy and collaboration among the UN agencies.

**Coordination and Synergy:** The JPR WEE synergy among partners continued to grow stronger during the reporting period, several joint activities were achieved such as joint planning, joint field visits by the Technical Working Group (TWG) and steering committee (SC), joint sessions with partners, joint organization of the open day and many others. As the result of the joint efforts, visibility of the Joint Programme greatly increased among stakeholders in districts, IPs and among programme participants and government, and collaborations made delivery of outputs faster.

A high-level field visit with the Joint Programme Global Coordinator and the Heads of Agencies, IPs executives, MINAGRI Officials, technical teams was organized in December 2018 in Nyaruguru, Kirehe and Ngoma districts, the strategic recommendations and implementation plan which followed will be implemented in 2019.

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<sup>11</sup> JPRWEE Factsheet will be shared separately

<sup>12</sup> Some articles could be accessed



Above: WFP CD and Global Coordinator and SC members in the field

**Resource Mobilization:** During the period under review, an additional grant of **\$227, 275** was provided by the IFAD gender desk in Rome in support of JPRWEE interventions in Rwanda, to specifically support GALS programming in Kirehe, Ngoma and Nyaruguru and climate resilience in Rubavu and Musanze districts. This collaboration shall be strengthened for future partnerships in the joint programme. The ASAP project aims at integrating climate change into GALS methodology to empower champions and plays a key role in this transformation process. It tackles climate

change issues, provides knowledge about climate change resilient and enhances participation of women and men in adaptation and mitigation,

As a result of resource mobilization and partnership efforts, advocacy for more land to JP RWEE participants yielded acquisition of 11.5 HA of agriculture land worth USD 30,924, Implementing Partners contributed 50,000,000 Rwf (USD 57,078) to JP RWEE beneficiaries which funded chicken projects for vulnerable RWEE women in Ngoma and Kirehe district and supported small scale irrigation in Nyamugari sector, Kirehe district. Moreso a USD 4,248, 246 proposal for possible funding has been accepted in the SDF -UNDAP II joint programmed which is expected to fund country level JP RWEE interventions till 2023. The proposal comes to further position women economic empowerment across the SDGs, NST1 and UNDAPII pillars of Transformational Governance, Economic Transformation, and Social Transformation. UNDAPII and the SDF provide great opportunities to the four UN agencies<sup>13</sup> to reaffirm the role of rural women in sustainable development, strengthen their collaboration and end hunger through knowledge exchange, advocacy, policy dialogue and joint initiatives on the ground to end hunger and empower rural women. MINAGRI through its Nkunganire muhinzi subsidy programme provided support to JP RWEE cooperatives in form of farm inputs and in partnership with the ministry, USD 322,411 has been mobilized to support the WEAI survey in Rwanda for which JP RWEE participants shall be involved. The survey findings/data are expected to inform food systems, policy makers and future projects on women's empowerment in Rwanda

- **Qualitative assessment:**

With great support from the leadership of both the Joint Programme and the four UN Agencies, the JP RWEE intervention has been integrated in the agencies' country strategic plans and UNDAPII joint programmes, resulting in a 4,248, 246 USD proposal that has been approved for possible funding under the UNDAPII – SDF for the next 5 years.

As a result of two open days organized in Nyaruguru and Kirehe districts on 19th/06/2018 and 21/06/2018 respectively, Joint Programme beneficiaries and partners were able to showcase their achievements, success stories, good practices and lessons learnt during the programme phase; they also had an opportunity to interact and share experiences with other cooperatives outside JPRWEE in the respective districts as these were invited. The open day provides a forum to discuss challenges and gaps that need closing as well as inform a possible scale up and replication in other areas.

The events involved UN partners, district and sector officials, JP RWEE staff and Implementing partners. During the open days, the guests visited some of Joint Programme beneficiaries in their families and realized that the programme has highly contributed to the improvement of their livelihoods. The Vice Mayor in charge of social affairs in Kirehe district was the guest of honor and sector executive secretaries in Cyahinda and Gatore sectors actively participated. Officials were amazed by the behavior change especially the confidence with which beneficiaries spoke about both the Joint Programme's support and their own achievements. All participants were urged to scale up the good practices and lessons learnt to other neighboring areas for the development of the country

- **Coordination among the four partner agencies and within the UN System**

UN Women regional office recognizes the role of the Joint Programme in climate smart agriculture and aligns with UN Women CSA portfolio. As a result, a presentation will be made on the alignment of the Joint Programme to CSA in the regional CSA summit to be held in Nairobi in Feb 2019.

Through advocacy engaged as a follow up of the Global Coordinator's mission to Rwanda, the Heads of Participating UN agencies have succeeded and got endorsement from Resident Coordinator and the UNCT that JP-RWEE will be considered as a Joint programme as part of UNDAPII (2018-2023). The endorsement carries with it the high expectation to receive funding from the RCO managed Sustainable Development Fund (SDF)

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<sup>13</sup> WFP, FAO, IFAD and UN Women



**ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:**

Results	Indicators baselines/ targets	Achieved Indicator target	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
<b>Outcome 1 Rural women have Improved food and nutrition security</b> <b>Indicator: i) % increase in agricultural production of women farmers in targeted areas disaggregated by crop production and livestock</b> <b>Baseline: 61%</b> <b>Planned Target: 75%</b> <b>ii) Dietary diversity disaggregated by meals per day and food composition</b>  <b>Baseline:</b> <b>Planned Target:</b>				
<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>				
	<b>Indicator:</b> 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) 35% (individual women)  Target by 2018: (465) 55%	473 women (63%)   909 (79%) women in cooperatives	This was the target for the period  1,149 members of ten farmer groups (909 women and 240 men) have formed 50 Voluntary Savings and Loans (VSL) groups. All VSL group members access credits from the group. In the first half of 2018, 185 members 173 women and 12 men) took out an individual loan from their respective VSL group.	Post training assessment report, field visits and Implementing Partners' reports
	<b>Indicator:</b> Amount of savings by rural women in targeted areas (% change over baseline) <b>Baseline:</b> 6,557,000 Rwf (\$ 7,434)  <b>Target:</b> 50,000, 000 Rwf (\$ 56.689) <b>662.56 % increase</b>	25,754,590Rwf <b>(\$ 29,200)</b> <b>292.79%</b>	VSL groups and access to finance activities were only commenced in the current year	Records from women groups; 10 groups have been linked to MFI (SACCO), 70 farmers (52 women and 18 men) have started small business
	<b>Indicator:</b> Number of rural women accessing extension services (% of increase over baseline) <b>Baseline:</b> 974 (30%) <b>Target:</b> 2604 (70%)	Status: 1088 women	10 Farmer Field Schools were created, and Kitchen gardens have been established at household level, 240 men were	Records from Farmers' groups

Results	Indicators baselines/ targets	Achieved Indicator target	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
			involved	
	<b>Indicator:</b> Number of rural women in targeted areas utilizing improved production techniques (% change over baseline) <b>Baseline:</b> 30% <b>Target:</b> 60%	<b>Status:</b> 619 women (68%)-+ from 5 farmers' groups	More efforts were invested in capacity building. 5 groups (519 women) are using improved production techniques while 100 beneficiaries (74 women and 26 men) were trained and are practicing techniques of managing nursery beds	Field reports and implementing Partners reports and records from farmer's groups,
	<b>Indicator:</b> Number of households with kitchen gardens and small livestock in targeted areas <b>Baseline:</b> 167 <b>Target:</b> 1574 HH Kitchen gardens & 754 HH Livestock	<b>Status:</b> 125  1,374 HH with Livestock Status: 0	<b>125</b> women were Trained in Kitchen gardens establishment Kitchen gardens are being established at household lever in semester II.  No small livestock in targeted area were planned	Field reports and IPs reports
<b>Output 1.2: Rural women have greater capacity to enhance and control local food security reserves and their production</b>				
	<b>Indicator:</b> Number of women-led and managed local food security reserves in target groups disaggregated by household level and cooperatives levels <b>Baseline:</b> 30 <b>Target:</b> 1000	Status: 1142 farmers (908 women and 234 men) were provided PHH equipment		Observations and field reports.  The equipment enabled farmers to reduce harvest losses and stored more food which contributed to improved household food security.
	<b>Indicator:</b> % of rural women accessing innovative food processing units <b>Baseline:</b> 16% <b>Target:</b> 30%	41%	<b>114</b> rural women from 3 cooperatives have been supported with processing equipment of tomatoes into tomato jam and ketchup while 255 women from 1 cooperative are into maize, cassava and sorghum processing	Farmers' group records, Monitoring reports
<b>Outcome 2 Rural women have increased income to secure their livelihoods</b>				
<b>Indicator: i) Variation of women/ women groups/ cooperatives income generated from their sales to WFP and other markets (% change of baseline)</b>				

Results	Indicators baselines/ targets	Achieved Indicator target	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
<b>Baseline: 39%</b> <b>Planned Target: 50%</b>				
<b>ii) Proportion of rural women in targeted areas with financial independence over their agriculture production incomes (income domain of the WEAI)</b> <b>Baseline: 31%</b> <b>Planned Target: 62%</b>				
<b>Output 2.1: Rural women have enhanced entrepreneurship skills and value chains to access markets for their products</b>				
	<b>Indicator:</b> Number of rural women trained in Entrepreneurship skills and value chains <b>Baseline: 0</b> <b>Target: 120</b>	Status: 70 women	The status is aligned to resources that were available for the activity	Post Training Assessment report and IPs reports  35 women were trained in entrepreneurship skills and marketing, 14 women, involved in milk, value chain, 3 women involved in honey value chain, 18 women involved in maize value chain, benefited from GALS training and entrepreneurship training, 909 women trained in Business planning
	<b>Indicator:</b> Number of rural women's cooperatives and women groups with agriculture production sales to markets <b>Baseline: 2</b> <b>Target: 10</b>	Status: 8 women groups	2 groups Abaticumugambi and Murama did not make any sales due to low production capacity	Records of farmers' groups and monitoring reports
<b>Output 2.2: Rural women have increased access to decent wage employment opportunities</b>				
	<b>Indicator:</b> Number of women employed who entered the formal labour market or initiated self-employment activities <b>Baseline: 1000</b> <b>Target: 2,5000</b>	909 women	184 profitable businesses created employment for 906 women at the end of May 2018 create???	184 profitable businesses
	<b>Indicator:</b> Number of women involved in agro-processing, and other value adding or innovative agribusiness activities. <b>Baseline: 71</b> <b>Target: 920</b>	Status: <b>255</b> women from 2 cooperatives are in maize processing, and	Support of the joint programme was limited to these groups during the phase	Group records:  <b>114</b> rural women from Twitezimbere Cooperative in Nyaruguru district, Kubinya and

Results	Indicators baselines/ targets	Achieved Indicator target	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
		114 women from 3 cooperatives are in tomato processing Status: 369		Terimbere Mugore wa Sake cooperatives in Ngoma district have been supported with processing equipment of tomatoes into tomato jam and ketchup in the current phase of the joint program. While 255 women of Urumuri Cyahinda are into maize, cassava and sorghum processing
<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> <b>Indicator: i) % of rural women elected as representatives in rural councils / local authorities</b> Baseline: 43% Planned Target: 60% <b>ii)% of Producers Organizations led by women</b> Baseline: 78% Planned Target: 85% <b>iii)Proportion of rural women in targeted areas with active leadership and decision-making roles</b> Baseline: 43% Planned Target: 50%				
<b>Output 3.1: Rural women, including young women have enhanced confidence and leadership skills to participate in local governance</b>				
	<b>Indicator:</b> % of women candidates in rural councils' elections <b>Baseline: 30%</b> <b>Target: 50%</b>	Status:	Women members are participating as village leaders, National Women Council Members, and other roles but actual data is yet to be collected	Local council records and Monitoring reports
<b>Output 3.2: Rural women have greater organizational capacities to form, sustain and participate into POs, cooperatives and unions</b>				
	<b>Indicator:</b> Number of informal rural women's groups who join formally registered POs, cooperatives and unions (% change from baseline) <b>Baseline: 4</b> <b>Target: 13</b>	Status: 7 groups	10 groups were targeted,  7 out of the 10 women groups under JPRWEE, have legal cooperative status while 3 out of the 10 women groups are still in the process	Post training assessment report, and Legal registration certificates



Results	Indicators baselines/ targets	Achieved Indicator target	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
	<b>Indicator:</b> Number of POs, cooperatives and unions that adopt a gender policy/strategy and/or a women's quota for their board <b>Baseline: 12</b> <b>Target: 51</b>	Status: 22	All current 10 Women groups are adopting gender policies and guidelines in leadership and decision making. The percentage of Women leaders is 68% (54 women) and 32% (26 men) across the farmers' groups	Post Training assessment report
<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>				
	<b>Indicator:</b> % of rural women in coalitions adopt common positions to influence national and regional policy forums on the new SDGs and Rio+20 follow up <b>Baseline: 0</b> <b>Target:</b> 45% of Women Coalitions		This data is yet to be collected	
<b>Output 3.4: Rural women, including young women have enhanced awareness on their rights in a more supportive community/local environment.</b>				
	<b>Indicator:</b> Proportion of rural women and young women participating in community listening clubs <b>Baseline: 30%</b> <b>Target: 60%</b>	<b>Status:</b> 158 women (45.4%)	A total of 119 Champions (73 women & 46 men) participated in a joint study visit on Gender Action Learning methods (GALS) and 85 Women participated in GALS training in Kirehe, Ngoma and Nyaruguru districts	IPs reports
<b>Outcome 4 A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women</b>				
<b>Indicator: i) Proportion of government resources and donor funding allocated to programmes benefitting rural women</b> Baseline: - Planned Target: 30%				
<b>ii) Evidence of special measures to guarantee women's equal rights to landownership and control</b> Baseline: Planned Target:				
<b>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</b>				
	<b>Indicator:</b> Number of laws to secure rural women's ownership over productive resources <b>Baseline: 3</b>	5 laws and 5 strategies	Laws are dependent on other policy makers	Existing Laws: -Law governing land in Rwanda (2013)

Results	Indicators baselines/ targets	Achieved Indicator target	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
	<b>Target:</b> -			-The Law on Matrimonial Regimes, Donations, Succession and Liberalities (2016) on gender equality in property ownership in marriages and inheritance, -Organic law on state finances (2013) -Law for the Prevention, Protection and Punishment of Gender Based Violence (2008). - National Gender Policy (2010), - National Policy for Family Promotion and National Policy against GBV
	<b>Indicator:</b> Number of national policies and laws that make provisions for gender equality and women's empowerment <b>Baseline:</b> 9 policies and laws <b>Target:</b> -	10 policies and laws	JP RWEE has no control over the target but only contributions to the indicator	Existing policies and laws can be viewed on MIGEPROF and Gender Monitoring Office websites
<b>Output 4.2: Greater availability of tools and data to track progress in the economic empowerment of rural women</b>				
	<b>Indicator:</b> "Women's empowerment in agriculture index" (WEAI) is piloted or mainstreamed in National Statistics <b>Baseline:</b> - <b>Target:</b>	0	This indicator is not yet achievable for Rwanda but WEAI survey is expected in the next phase in partnership with MINAGRI	JPRWE agencies in collaboration with MINAGRI started the process of implementing this activity. Partners like DFID and RDDP in MINAGRI are on board to support the WEAI. A budget of 312,727 US \$ is committed by the two partners WEAI report is expected later
<b>Output 4.3: An enabling environment is promoted to reflect rural women's priorities in regional policy processes.</b>				
	<b>Indicator:</b> Percentage of rural women that participated in dialogues on agriculture, rural development and land disaggregated by national, regional and global <b>Baseline:</b> 75% <b>Target:</b> 95%	6% at National level	58 women who participated this year were more than 40 women last year,	Reports of IPs and Monitoring reports  72 farmers (58 women and 14 men) participated in the annual Agri-Show and exchanged ideas with other Exhibitors. As compared

Results	Indicators baselines/ targets	Achieved Indicator target	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
				to last year where 50 farmers (40 women and 10 men) participated

### iii) A Specific Story

#### **Specific Story 1: Nyiraruvugo Sphora has become a self-reliant woman in her village due to JPRWEE interventions in Kirehe District.**

Nyiraruvugo Sphora, is a 58-year-old widow and a member of Kubinya cooperative living in Nyamugali sector, Kirehe District. Nyiraruvugo has 5 children and is foster parent to for 4 children aged between 7 and 16 years.

Before joining the JP RWEE, in Kirehe District, she was involved in subsistence farming, mainly maize, beans and sorghum. She grew vegetables through Kubinya cooperative without any remarkable benefits, she became a JP RWEE beneficiary in 2016. Nyiraruvugo, together with her colleagues in Kubinya cooperative, benefited from training in agricultural techniques (growing tomato in greenhouses), financial literacy, marketing skills and tomato processing (production of tomato ketchup and jam), in order to improve the income gained from raw tomatoes. Due to the Joint Programme intervention, at the end of 2016, Nyiraruvugo was able to get 100,000 Rwf (120 USD) as return from Kubinya cooperative to which she was a member. From 100,000 rwf gained she realized that she could do more than agriculture, she then invested in livestock and bought 2 rabbits 14,000 Rwf (\$14). To date, the rabbits have produced 42 more rabbits from which 20 are being reared in partnership with her 10 neighbours, at the condition of equal benefits sharing. Nyiraruvugo was also able to make investments with the money from the sales of some rabbits and bought a goat for at 29,000 Rwf (\$34). To date, Nyiraruvugo has 10 goats and she feels economically safe as she can easily support her family with basic household needs and pays medical insurance for the family. Her current net monthly savings after expenses is 8,000 Rwf (\$10). She is grateful to the Joint Programme partnership for improving her family living conditions.



**Specific Story 2.** Ms. Clementine is a 27yearold single mother of one child. Since joining JP RWEEt, she actively engaged in most of the Programme’s initiatives to improve her livelihood. She planted a healthy kitchen garden and a banana plantation, which have improved her family’s nutrition. She also owns a rain water tank, compost and hermetic bags to safely store her production. In her testimony, Clementine said that she was previously neglected by neighbors because of poverty. But with the assistance from the Joint Programme, she earns money from selling her surplus production, and the rain water she collects from her water tank. She said, with humor, that nowadays some neighbors call her “Boss”.She said that she contributes to the wellbeing of neighbors by providing them with water during the dry seasons. Clementine is pleased with the benefits from her rain water tank because she allocates the 2 to 3 hours’ she used to spend a day to get water from the marshland, to her business activities. After being trained on access to finance and business planning, Clementine joined TUZAMURANE VSLA. She started by saving 100 Rwf (\$ 0.10) per week after 10 weeks, she got a loan of 20,000 Rwf (\$ 23) from her Village and Saving Loan Association (VSLA) as start-up capital. She started the business of selling the bananas and fruits, and from that business she makes a profit of \$6 every week. She has 137,850Rwf (\$ 150) as savings on her bank account in Gatore Saving Cooperative. She has also started investing in livestock by buying a pig. Clementine is determined to work harder to improve her status but to also support other vulnerable women in her neighborhood.

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

A post training assessment was conducted with support of INADES formation to provide evidence and better understanding of training impact or changes brought about by the various trainings on access to finance, business planning, property laws and policies towards beneficiaries. The assessment aimed at showing any improved technical and financial capacities among participants in line with a pre-training assessment carried out at the beginning of the phase with a view of determining the capacity needs for target women groups. The post training assessment has provided information about the women's knowledge of laws governing land and succession in Rwanda and their business planning and entrepreneurship skills as well as how such acquired skills helped them increase their access to finance<sup>14</sup>. The main results of the project were; 50ToTs (35 women and 15 men) trained on access to finance through the Voluntary Saving and Loans Association (VSLA) approach on business planning and on property laws. Following the roll out of trainings to 1,149 beneficiaries (919 women and 230 men), 50 VSLAs groups were formed on access to finance and business planning and are currently operational. A cumulative capital including the social fund of RWF 27,152,505 (USD30,726) has been mobilized and saved by farmers of the old 10 groups. Another 15 groups were formed by indirect project beneficiaries after learning from the direct beneficiaries. A total of 184 persons (180 women and 4 men) have taken up entrepreneurial market oriented activities beyond subsistence farming and this has increased their capital from RWF 5,262,600 (USD 5,913) invested to RWF 10,707,000 (USD 12,030) in earnings. During the post training assessment, it was found out that 325 women have taken out financial loans during the joint programme and among these, 169 persons (161 women and 8 men) received loans from VSLA groups. Among others, these loans were used to launch aforementioned income generating activities, thus contributing to the improvement of farmers' livelihood. 844 women now have bank accounts. After the training on property law, the assessment revealed that 71% of the respondents know the content of the law and know where they can go to claim their rights.

In addition, terms of reference have been developed for JP RWEE midterm review and two studies on Beans value chain and women in finance value chain as well as a survey on WEAI all planned between January and June 2019, these are expected to provide data that will inform policy decisions and future projects among other uses.

### **IV. Resources**

The project funds (US\$400,000) for the first half of 2018 were received in April 2017. No core funds were received during the reporting period, however human resource support from the 4 UN agencies was provided, for example communication materials for JPRWEE were produced with support of communication staff from the 4 agencies, program officers from the 4 agencies provided inputs to documents and others participated in some field visits. During the period, additional grant of \$147,000 to Service providers (YWCA, SAFE) working in three Districts: Kirehe, Ngoma and Nyaruguru was provided by the IFAD gender desk in Rome in support of JPRWEE interventions in Rwanda, these funds specifically supported GALs programme and climate resilience in Rubavu and Musanze districts. Additional 748, 881 USD was transferred to JP RWEE Rwanda in September 2018 and has funded activities for the second half of 2018 (July to December 2018). NGOs implementing the JP RWEE contributed a total of 50,000,000 Rwf equivalent to USD 57,078 to the chicken rearing project that benefited 170 beneficiaries (18 men and 152 women), and small-scale irrigation in Kirehe district that benefited 31 farmers (5 men and 26 women) of Kubinya cooperative. The districts of operation provided land to JPRWEE farmers groups to the tune of 11.5HA of agriculture land worth USD 30,137.

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<sup>14</sup> The detailed post training assessment report is available for reference.

**Table: Cumulative Financial Status as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018**

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>FAO (US\$)</b>	<b>IFAD (US\$)</b>	<b>WFP (US\$)</b>	<b>UN WOMEN (US\$)</b>
<b>Contribution (Core)</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>Swedish Cooperation Agency SIDA Contribution</b>	178,844	164,780	277532	178,844
<b>Received in 2018</b>	167, 144	154, 000	260, 593	167, 144
<b>Balance CF from 2017</b>	89, 799	34, 800	85,138	48, 618
<b>Total Spent /Disbursed</b>	105,252	40, 200	135, 837	154, 407
<b>Outstanding Balance</b>	<b>151,691</b>	<b>10, 800 <sup>15</sup></b>	<b>209, 894</b>	<b>146,217</b>

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<sup>15</sup> IFAD Financial report is as of June 2018 since we were not able to get the current status on time.