

**ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARDS THE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF RURAL WOMEN  
BI-ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT  
REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 30 JUNE 2020**

<p align="center"><b>Programme Title &amp; Project Number</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Programme Title: Accelerating Progress Toward Economic Empowerment of Rural Women in (Ethiopia)</li> <li>MPTF Office Project Reference Number:<sup>1</sup> 00092000:<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>	<p align="center"><b>Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results</b></p> <p><i>Ethiopia, Federal and Regional (Oromia and Afar Regions)</i> <i>Priority area: Rural Women Economic Empowerment</i></p> <p>Programme Beneficiaries: Direct Beneficiaries: 3,800 rural women (3,311 in Oromia and 489 in Afar) during the reporting period. Indirect Beneficiaries: 18,500 in Oromia and 2000 in Afar (Members of the community in JP RWEE implementing areas)</p>
<p align="center"><b>Participating Organization(s)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FAO, IFAD, UNWOMEN, WFP</li> </ul>	<p align="center"><b>Implementing Partners</b></p> <p><b>Federal:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministry of Women, Children and Youth (MoWCY);</li> <li>Ministry of Agriculture (MoA);</li> <li>Land Administration and Use Directorate under Ministry of Agriculture</li> <li>Ministry of Finance and Economic Cooperation (MoFEC)</li> <li>Bureau of Cooperative Promotion Agencies (BoCPA)</li> <li>Federal Urban Job Creation and Food Security Agency.</li> </ul> <p><b>Regional and District level (Oromia and Afar):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bureaus of Women and Children Affairs (BoWCYAs);</li> <li>Cooperative Promotion Agency;</li> <li>Bureaus of Finance and Economic Cooperation (BoFECs);</li> <li>Bureaus of Agriculture and Natural Resource (BoANR);</li> </ul>

<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

### Programme/Project Cost (US\$)

Total approved budget as per  
project document:

US\$3,388,256

MPTF Contribution

• *by Agency (if applicable)*

UN Women \$901,123

FAO \$ 933,418

WFP \$ 1,553,715

Agency Contribution

• *by Agency (if applicable)*

Government Contribution

*(if applicable)*

Other Contributions (donors)

*(if applicable)*

**TOTAL: \$3,388,256**

### Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.

Assessment/Review - if applicable *please attach*

Yes  No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy*

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

Yes  No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy*

### Programme Duration

Overall Duration: 6.5 years

Start Date (*15 10 2014*)

End Date (*30 06 2021*)

### Report Submitted By

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## Abbreviation

BDS	Business Development Service
BoANRs	Bureaus of Agriculture and Natural Resources
BoCPA	Bureau of Cooperative Promotion Agencies
BoFEC	Bureau of Finance and Economic Cooperation <sup>3</sup>
BoWCYA	Bureau of Women Children and Youth Affairs <sup>4</sup>
CCs	Community Conversations
CPAs	Cooperative Promotion Agencies
ETB	Ethiopian Birr
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GRB	Gender-Responsive Budgeting
IDP	Internally Displaced People
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IGAs	Income Generating Activities
JP RWEE	Joint Programme on Rural Women Economic Empowerment
LAND	Land Administration to Nurture Development
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoWCY	Ministry of Women Children and Youth <sup>5</sup>
MoFEC	Ministry of Finance and Economic Cooperation <sup>6</sup>
MPTF	Multi Partners Trust Fund
PMC	Programme Management Committee
RUSACCOs	Rural Saving and Credit Cooperative Organizations
SNNPR	Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region
SWAA-E	Society for Women and AIDS in Africa-Ethiopia
TWG	Technical Working Group
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
WFP	United Nations World Food Programme
WISE	Organization for Women in Self Employment
WEAI	Women Empowerment Agriculture Index

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<sup>3</sup> The regional Bureaus of Finance and Economic Development are changed to Bureaus of Finance and Economic Cooperation

<sup>4</sup>The regional Bureaus of Women and Children affairs are changed to Bureaus of Women, Children and Youth affairs

<sup>5</sup> The Ministry of Women and children affairs is changed to Ministry of Women, Children and Youth

<sup>6</sup> The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development is now changed to Ministry of Finance and Economic Cooperation

## NARRATIVE REPORT FORMAT

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Joint Programme ‘Accelerating Progress Towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women’ (JP RWEE) is being implemented in Ethiopia by FAO, UN Women and WFP. The programme is implemented in close collaboration with national and local government and takes a holistic approach to women’s economic empowerment, applying the expertise of each individual agency to achieve the four programme outcomes. During the reporting period, from 1<sup>st</sup> of January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, the JP RWEE targeted four districts (*woredas*), namely Dubti in Afar Regional State and Adamitulu, Yayagulele and Dodola in Oromia Regional State. The programme also supported internally displaced people (IDPs) in Galan and Sululta towns in Oromia Regional State. Programme implementation was severely impacted during the year by the outbreak of the global health pandemic, COVID-19. As a result of programme delays caused by restrictions to movement, a no cost extension was received, and the programme was extended until June 2021.

In both Oromia and Afar regions, JP RWEE beneficiaries were highly affected by COVID-19. The restriction to movement hindered the normal functioning of the market system and there were very few supplies during market days, meaning that most of the women were not able to buy and sell dairy and horticulture products. As a result, there was a substantial reduction in beneficiaries’ incomes and savings. However, a significant number of the rural women participating in the JP RWEE shifted their business to activities that could be carried out without the need for travelling and social gatherings. For instance, cooperatives that were engaged in buying and selling fruits and vegetables were able to change to beef fattening and poultry. This has helped them to sustain their livelihoods and support their families throughout the crisis. Climate smart agriculture approaches were also supported, both through training and also through the development of a partnership with an agricultural research centre. Progress towards improving food and nutrition security and increasing income opportunities and securing livelihoods was made through the development of milk processing and cattle fattening businesses, including linking them to wider markets. Through lobbying with local authorities, women in Yaya Gulale District received land for construction of a dairy farm centre as part of developing and expanding a cooperative’s milk processing and supply business. A cumulative total of 3,750 women, including beneficiaries from the previous year, (3,311 in Oromia and 439 in Afar) accessed revolving funds for their income generating activities. Despite the pandemic, the average personal savings of women increased from 640 ETB (18 USD) to 15,200 ETB (434 USD), while the group savings of the rural women engaged in diversified and sustainable sources of income has also increased, ranging from 14,180 ETB (500 USD) to 80,300 ETB (2,900 USD). A number of women were also linked to increased market opportunities through attendance at bazaars and exhibitions in Addis Ababa.

With regards to progress relating to a gender responsive policy environment, the JP RWEE also participated in the development and advocacy process for women’s rights in the newly drafted land compensation regulation. The JP RWEE, in collaboration with the Ministry of Urban Development and Construction, conducted two consultative meetings to review and reflect on the draft regulation. In addition, in collaboration with the Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA), the JP RWEE launched the ‘*Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Research Dissemination Forum*’. The forum is a continuous research presentation platform in which academics, researchers, practitioners and institutions share their research findings on gender equality and women’s empowerment. The forum also aims to advocate and influence on policies, legislations and decisions through evidence-based research. A bibliography review on Gender and Land Issues in Ethiopia has been developed by the JP RWEE in collaboration with the Women’s Land Rights Task Force Network. This aims to support evidence-based research for improved land administration in Ethiopia, as related to gender equality.

## **Purpose**

The JPRWEE in Ethiopia aims at accelerating the economic empowerment of rural women, while securing their livelihoods and rights. The programme is aligned with national government priorities and works in close partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Women, Children and Youth and Affairs. The JP RWEE is fully aligned with the Ethiopia UNDAF 2016-2020, which includes pillars on sustainable economic growth and risk reduction, with a strong focus on strengthening agricultural development, financial inclusion, and supporting vulnerable communities; on governance and capacity development; and also on women, youth, and children. Cutting across all UNDAF pillars are issues such as gender equality, the environment, and human rights, all of which are addressed through this Joint Programme, with its focus on promoting greater equity and supporting the inclusion of vulnerable, marginalized and excluded groups especially women and children as contributors to and beneficiaries of development in the country.

## **I. Results**

The main results achieved by the JP RWEE during 2020 are as follows:

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

Under this outcome, the number of directly targeted rural women with improved nutrition practices reached a cumulative total of 3,300 in Oromia (550 rural women in Oromia in 2020) and 400 in Afar (no one in Afar in 2020?). Through their extension structures and systems, the Bureau of Livestock, Agriculture and Natural Resource Development Bureau (BoLANRD) supported the rural women beneficiaries in adopting improved nutrition practices through practical training and by conducting joint market visits with the beneficiaries to introduce them to different vegetables and fruits. In both Afar and Oromia the food culture in the community is very limited. The Afar community mainly depends on dairy products and meat, and so the nutrition intake is traditionally very limited, while in Oromia dairy products are sold rather than consumed by the household. To improve the consumption habits of the community, BoLANRD conducted demonstrations on the use of vegetables, fruits and dairy products that are available in the local market and at the household level. As a result, significant numbers of rural women and their families have started to consume vegetables, fruits, and dairy products as part of their daily diet. An impact assessment consisting of in-depth interviews and group discussions with 20 women was carried out with BoLANRD. The assessment found that significant change was observed in the lives of the rural women with regards to their food culture, nutrition, and food security. Beneficiaries were found to have applied positive coping mechanisms to deal with the COVID-19 crisis by planting backyard crops not traditionally used in the areas, such as potato which enables long term utilization and avoids the use of expensive inputs such as spices and other perishable materials.

In Afar, technical support was provided to 16 rural women's cooperative leaders, including training sessions on how to use supplementary feed for cows, feeding practice from the fodder bank, and livestock feed management of fodder banks. In addition to this, 16 rural women cooperative leaders in Debele district of Afar Regional state, were trained on the marketing of dairy products and fattening shoats, management and follow up of the milk processing business, business plan, financial management and bookkeeping.

Additionally, three trainings were held with 293 rural women beneficiaries, on poultry production and horticulture development in Oromia region. The trainings focused on plant care in the two current livestock fattening centres at Adami Tulu Jidokombocha and Yaya Gulale districts. Among other issues, participants were equipped on regenerative agriculture, multipurpose tree seedlings production and plantation, soil and water conservation, agriculture, animal fodder and range land management.

In addition to this, 100 rural women in two woredas were equipped with knowledge and skills in poultry production and horticulture development.

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

As planned, a fodder bank on 15-hectare of land has been constructed in Debele Kebele of Afar region. (August to October 2020). Currently, fodder grass has been grown, harvested, and stored for the use of goats and dairy heifers. Two types of grass varieties have been grown and are well irrigated. This will enhance the potential of the cooperatives in the district that are engaged in beef fattening businesses.

In Sululta Woreda a construction of one poultry shade with watering, feeding trough, egg laying cage and shop has been completed. The shade constructed in Sululta will benefit Internally Displaced women.

Agricultural professionals and researchers from Adamai Tulu Agriculture Research Centre provided technical support to Hawigudina Abdi Boru Cooperative, for example, in planting and growing different fruit, wind breaking trees/ gravel fencing trees, and using seedlings to be used for animal fodder. The partnership with Adamai Tulu Agriculture Research Centre aims to promote the adoption of improved seeds and climate smart agricultural practices. During the reporting period, the research team, in collaboration with JP RWEE programme staff, supported the women to plant 3044 different fruit trees such as banana, avocado, papaya, apple, guava, orange, and mango. The selected sites are affected by climate change and limited rain fall. The main purpose of these interventions is to mainstream climate change responses in the practices of agribusiness cooperatives and make their sites gender and climate responsive model sites. The community in these areas are exposed to different livelihood challenges including food shortages. Thus, the JP RWEE is developing a model site that will help local community and development partners, including the government, to learn from and replicate the model in other areas and backyards of the households. So far, the JP RWEE beneficiaries in the area are planning different fruits and trees in their backyard from the learning they have made, and local government bodies have also visited the sites and plan to replicate the good practices in other drought prone parts of the region.

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

As outlined above, one of the key interventions to enable the rural women to have greater capacity and control over their production is the provision of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) inputs and skill trainings. During the reporting period, 75 women were assisted to obtain land for their cooperative in Yaya Gulelele Woreda. The land has been developed for a shade to be used for a beef fattening business by Derie Biftu – Megerisa cooperative. Besides utilizing the site for beef fattening, cooperative members will use it to diversify their business. For instance, through cultivating fruits and vegetables. Following the construction of the shade, ten oxen with animal fodder were also purchased. Technical advice on how to take care of animals was provided and 75 women cooperative members were able to engage in the fattening business in a very informed manner. The cooperative has started the second-round fattening business by procuring another 10 oxen at 200,000 birr (USD 5,000).

Additionally, in Yaya Gulele Chemeri Kebele (Oromia region) the renovation of shades to be utilized by milk processing (dairy processing cooperatives) has been completed and 11 different types of milk processing equipment provided.

In Afar, two rural women's business groups (dairy production cooperatives) with a total of 150 members have been engaged in dairy processing business. Most members of these group members now have access to milk processing plants. Different agricultural inputs, and milk processing equipment were also distributed to 203 rural women. The technologies, accompanied by relevant capacity building activities and follow up, have made the dairy sector in the district one of the most reliable avenues for generating income and for saving time. The time saved provides women with more opportunities to participate in development and decision-making, undertaking more productive work with

greater income potential. For example, women are currently working on establishing a dairy farm, which will increase production and expand the milk supply beyond the current supply base of cooperative and community members.

With the support of the JP RWEE, different agricultural inputs, milk processing equipment and irrigation kits and postharvest technologies (e.g., grain production) that will save time and energy were distributed in Oromia in three Woredas of Oromia region, accompanied by training. Training was given on beef cattle development activities for 125 beneficiaries organized for fattening purposes in Dodolla woreda, and a training on backyard horticulture development was given to the selected beneficiaries in Gelan, Adami Tulu and Yaya Gulele woredas.

Finally, training on poultry production was provided for 200 IDPs in Gelan and Sululta administrative towns.

## **Outcome 2: Rural women increase their income to sustain their livelihoods**

A new strategy used to help ensure the sustainability of the cooperatives' business, particularly in an environment characterized by potential socio-economic shocks, is to enable cooperatives to have access to insurance. To this end, a co-financing of insurance coverage was facilitated through the JP RWEE implementing partner SWAAE for nine agribusiness cooperatives with Awash Insurance Company (AIC), one of the main national insurance providers in Ethiopia.

In March 2020, Dubti wereda Debele Kebele of Afar JP RWEE, two business groups with 50 women were established. The businesses will be engaged in fattening business and dairy processing businesses. With the aim of strengthening and sustaining the rural women's livelihood, five days (August 2020) trainings was organized with the support of JP RWEE, in Dubti Woreda of Afar Region. The training focused on livestock feed management, dairy processing and marketing of milk products and fattened goats. It was provided for 80 selected beneficiaries and leaders of the cooperatives.

Cooperatives running milk processing businesses were supported with training in value chain development and marketing. The cooperatives are now supplying milk twice a day and have established customers including from local businesses and local government. In Afar region, the milk business is performing well and has resulted in increased income. For example, currently the rural women in just one cooperative have saved the substantial amount of 310,000 Birr (7,750 USD). Transfer of skills and knowledge through training and capacity building has brought significant gains in the cooperative business. For instance, one business started selling small amounts of milk (10 litres) and maize (10kg) per day to in order to prepare traditional food for sale. This has now increased to 38 liters of milk and 50 kg of maize per day, with plans to expand the business further.

During the reporting period, two awareness raising trainings were held in Adami Tullu Jido Kombolcha and Yayya Gullele woredas on the effects of climate change and ways in which they could be mitigated. A total of 100 participants (76 women and 24 men) took part. Of these, 72 were cooperative members and the remaining 28 represented other local stakeholders, including JP RWEE Woreda committee members, Woreda government sector offices and kebele cabinet members. The trainings included skills on how to practice climate smart agriculture (CSA) as a strategy to mitigate climate change, increase income and improve livelihoods.

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

With the objective of enhancing marketing capacity and access to business development services, a series of trainings were conducted for 48 (8 men and 40 women) JP RWEE business cooperatives leaders and members. The trainings were conducted in four woredas of Oromia. The training covered the basic concepts and principles of market management and market information system, how to demand business development services and advertisement of their products and their interaction with buyers. Trainings were also conducted in Afar Region, Dubti Woreda, for rural

women beneficiaries on financial management and bookkeeping. In this training two rural women business cooperatives were engaged in the trainings.

In order to increase market access, six cooperatives (2 milk processing and 2 cattle fattening business, 1 grain producing and 1 grinding service business cooperative) were linked to buyers using different mechanisms and have managed to generate an income of 745,117 birr (18,627 USD). The cooperatives took part in exhibitions and bazaars organized at Woreda level, in January 1 to 5, 2020 and were also supported to sell their products outside of the local area, including in the capital city, Addis Ababa, through attending bazaars and exhibitions and developing links and networks. The bazaar in Addis Ababa was organized with the collaboration of Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Associations AACCSA) and JP RWEE partners. This bazaar was a unique opportunity for women beneficiaries to sell their products and establish links and share information with similar businesses. A total of 48 people (44 female and 4 male) and were able to generate income as well as develop networks. For example, Megerisa business cooperatives were able to sell their first round of fattened oxen and secured 229,450 ETB (USD 5,885) capital to buy new oxen and develop their business further. In addition, non-processed agricultural products, mainly lentils, sunflower, teff, chickpeas, honey and onion, were brought to the bazaar along with value added items like Cheko, kolo, besso, flour, kinche, chechbesa, and, for the most part, were fully sold. During the bazaar a training was held for participating cooperatives that focused on marketing strategy, designing, branding, and packaging of products. The women participating gave the feedback that such an opportunity enabled them to have better knowledge and experience in business. They acquired skills on how to create and maintain market linkages with others, understood the benefits of bringing high quality products to the market, and gained experience in selling their products to a wider market.

### **Output 2.2 Rural women access to holistic income-generating facilities and to gender-sensitive financial and non-financial services increased.**

During the reporting period, the personal savings of rural women engaged in diversified and sustainable sources of income has also increased, ranging from 14,180 ETB (500 USD) to 80,300 ETB (2,900 USD). The personal savings of these rural women are between 640 ETB (18 USD) to 15,200 ETB (434 USD).

For one cooperative, in order to address the challenge of water shortages which represented a threat to the viability of the cooperative's businesses (vegetable cultivation and animal fattening), a permanent and continuous water supply was constructed following consultation with beneficiaries. In collaboration with the local government, a water harvesting system was constructed as an adaptive measure to the water shortage that the Weltye Gudina cooperative is facing. This was a simple, locally produced technology. As a result, the cooperative has managed to collect rainwater for fattening activities and watering the seedlings planted at the center. In addition to using the harvested water for the aforementioned purposes, the low-cost methodology will be shared within the community to encourage others to learn how to harvest surface area water during the rainy season and use it for different purposes. This has also helped the women by saving the time they spend collecting water.

### **Outcome 3: Rural Women have Enhanced Leadership and Participation in their Communities and in Rural Institutions, and in Shaping laws, Policies and Programmes.**

Promising results have been achieved in relation to enhancing women's leadership and participation in their communities and rural institutions, and in shaping laws. Through trainings in leadership, experience sharing and dialogue forums between women cooperative leaders and aspiring leaders, social skills and assertiveness have been developed. The women are taking an active role in the management of their cooperatives and businesses as well as participating in local institutions. For instance, previously members of the women cooperatives did not have the

confidence to voice their needs but now they have started to request the Woreda administration for the provision of a water and electric supply.

Finally, the male engagement approach employed by the JP RWEE, which includes awareness raising sessions with women, their spouses, community and institutional leaders on gender and development, women's/girls' socio-economic rights and, most recently, on COVID 19, have proven to have an impact on social norms. Behaviour change within households has been witnessed by some men supporting their wives with their business and with household chores. As a result, local communities have been more receptive to women taking an active role in rural life. This has been evidenced by men encouraging and reminding their wives to attend cooperative meetings and to take part in cooperative activities.

### **Output 3.1 Rural women confidence and leadership skills built to fully participate in family matters, rural institutions, cooperatives and unions.**

JP RWEE committee members and other stakeholders conducted a meeting between local government staff and rural women on how to enhance Business Development Services (BDS). This was held following monitoring visits which showed a huge gap between the services currently been provided by the government to the beneficiaries and the actual BDS that needs to be in place to ensure rural women's businesses utilize their productive potential and capacity to the fullest. Cognizant to this, four consultative sessions involving 53 people (8 men and 45 women - business cooperative members, JP RWEE committee members and other local stakeholders) were organized for two days, in four sessions at Dodola, Adami Tulu, Judo Kombolcha, Chancho, and Yaya Gullele Woredas in Oromia region. The main objectives of the sessions were to enhance understanding on the concepts and principles of BDS (both by BDS providers and receivers), review the importance of BDS, identify the major problems in the provision of BDS, and agree on the roles and ways of strengthening the partnerships and coordination for BDS as a way forward. After the session, representative of the woreda administration agreed to ensure adequate and efficient delivery of BDS and inform their respective members of the outcomes of the sessions.

### **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 promotion of shared learning through exchange visits to climate-smart villages (CSVs) and other related initiatives between different organizations/cooperatives was carried out during the reporting period. Prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, an experience-sharing visit was conducted in March with members of Megerisa Business Cooperatives of Yaya Gulale district visiting the fattening center of Hunde Gudina Business Cooperative and observing their CSA practices. The visit was attended by 28 individuals (23 women and 5 men), including business cooperative leaders and members, and JP RWEE committee members and other local stakeholders. The participants visited the fattening shed site, the bio-gas plant, the fodder machine, and the CSA activities undertaken by the cooperative. Following the visit, the participants (the visitors) held discussions with the members and leaders of the host cooperative to ask questions. The visit enhanced the capacity of business cooperative leaders and members in how to manage such a joint business while also promoting a green economy.

Woreda Administrators and JP RWEE technical committee members also conducted a monitoring and experience sharing visit to Hunde Gudina cooperative site. During the visit, the participants, highly appreciated the activities being undertaken, particularly with regard to the innovative CSA (the climate smart agriculture) activities. The Woreda Administrator stated, "*The work done here will give us lesson on how we can work on agricultural activities in drought prone areas.*"

## **Outcome 4: Gender responsive policy and institutional environment for women's economic empowerment**

Under outcome 4, considerable progress has been made in relation to women's rights to land, with the JP RWEE taking part in the development of the newly drafted land compensation regulation, and subsequent advocacy on the law. Land is the critical asset for rural farmers and crucial to securing sustainable livelihoods. Over the past few decades, millions of Ethiopians have experienced expropriation of land by the government for investment of infrastructure development purposes. Land displacement and the insignificant amount of compensation for land expropriation disproportionately affects women as compared to men. Women are often not accorded their rights to land and are dependent on their husbands with regards to land ownership, which results in them receiving little or no compensation in their own name.

Acknowledging that the previous compensation proclamation has drawbacks, the Ethiopian government has amended and introduced a new proclamation No. 1161/2019 enacted on 23 September 2019. A more detailed and comprehensive Regulation that ensures the implementation of the provision is currently being drafted by the Ministry of Urban Development and Construction. In collaboration with the Ministry of Urban Development and Construction, JP RWEE conducted a consultative meeting to review and reflect on the drafted law. Two consultative meetings were held on 27-28 January in Addis Ababa and 3-4 February 2020 in Adama, Oromia region. The meetings were attended by various participants from different ministry offices and research centers including the Regional Bureau of Women, Children and Youth Affairs; independent researchers; land administration department heads within universities, etc.

Support has been also been provided in reviewing the existing agricultural policy from a gender perspective in ten technical areas in agriculture including land, agricultural mechanization and technology, irrigation, input market, rural finance, job creation, etc. Efforts have been made to make gender a standalone thematic area in the newly drafted agriculture and rural development policy, in close collaboration with the women's directorate of MOA, ATA and other development partners. Moreover, with the objective of building the capacity of different sectors at MOA, a gender mainstreaming training manual is being developed in close collaboration with the Women, Children, and Youth Directorate (WCYD). The Women's Land Right Taskforce, which is chaired by the MOA, is also supporting the policy revision from a gender perspective and providing inputs/comments to the gender training manual being drafted.

In collaboration with the WCYD of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), the JP RWEE (UN Women) published a rapid assessment and a policy brief on Gender and Agricultural Mechanization<sup>7</sup> to highlight the need for enhanced gender responsiveness in agriculture mechanization policy, as well as to inform stakeholder programming in this sector. The assessment was conducted using both primary and secondary data provided by stakeholders including the Ministry of Agriculture, various NGOs, research centers and academic institutions, private sector actors, and other development partners.

#### **Output 4.1. Agriculture key stakeholders, including relevant government bodies, capacity enhanced to conduct gender analysis and integrate gender sensitive indicators and targets in planning and budgeting**

Among the planned activities to achieve this result is to support the WCYD of the Ministry of Agriculture to develop a standardized gender inclusive CSA / agriculture training manual with training of trainers (TOT) sessions for trainers. The gender training manual has been drafted and aims to serve as an interactive instrument to give training to experts in different directorates in the Ministry in order to help them mainstream gender at their own level and also to cascade trainings to district levels and extension workers at grass root levels. The draft manual will be finalized in 2021 incorporating comments and inputs to be obtained from different sets at MOA and other development partners and the training of trainers (TOT) will be conducted once the manual is finalized.

The JP RWEE, in collaboration with the Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA) has organized the '*Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Research Dissemination Forum*'. The forum is planned to be a continuous platform for research presentations in which academics, researchers, practitioners and institutions share their research findings with a wider group. The forum also aims to advocate and influence policies, legislations and decisions that are

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<sup>7</sup><https://africa.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publication/2020/06/gender-and-agricultural-mechanization-policy-brief>

backed by research evidence. Given the limited numbers of research initiatives on gender related issues, the forum envisions to encourage researchers to conduct studies on gender issues. Moreover, it aims to create a forum in which researchers, development practitioners and policy makers come together to share information and learn from each other. The first presentation was made in December 2020 on the topic of utilization of media by women in rural areas, and the presentations will continue in 2021 on a monthly basis.

As mentioned above, with the objective of enhancing partnership and obtaining more technical support for CSA practices for the target women cooperatives, members, and their households, and to contribute to the learning and research agenda, the programme initiated a partnership with Oromia Agriculture Research Institute, Adami Tulu Branch in April 2020. The partnership aims to enhance the relationship and efforts to work with women leading agribusiness cooperatives in the intervention areas, and to support mainstreaming of climate change mitigation in programmatic interventions and actively engage women in climate smart agricultural practices.

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

The Ethiopian government is increasingly recognizing the need for gender mainstreaming in the country's laws, policies, plans, strategies, and programmes. In 2020, the Ministry of Agriculture started the revision of its agricultural policy Agriculture and Rural Development. The policy revision process was organized into 12 technical thematic areas, including Land, Technology & Inputs, Finance, Output Market, Irrigation & Water use, Infrastructure Services, Rural Employment, Export and Import Substitution, Private Sector Participation, and Implementation Capacity. The mainstreaming of gender within these thematic areas has been supported by the JP RWEE, starting with a review of the existing policy from a gender perspective in ten technical areas in agriculture. The analysis showed that gender did get some consideration in the thematic areas but not as a standalone technical area, rather it was one of the eight sub-groups within the thematic areas. This arrangement seemed to be less efficient in mainstreaming gender concerns in all the technical areas than expected. Thus, the gender team represented by gender experts from MoA, UN Women, Addis Ababa University, Agriculture Transformation Agency (ATA), and CDSF are now developing a stand-alone gender component in the policy document. This activity has been supported by JP RWEE.

In collaboration with the Women, Children and Youth Directorate (WCYD) of the MoA, the JP RWEE published a rapid assessment and policy brief on Gender and Agricultural Mechanization which detailed the need for enhanced gender responsiveness in agriculture mechanization policies, as well as to inform stakeholder programming in this sector. The assessment was conducted using both primary and secondary data provided by stakeholders including, the Ministry of Agriculture, various NGOs, research centers and academic institutions, private sector actors, and other development partners.

Finally, under this output a bibliography of '*Gender and Land Issues in Ethiopia*' was compiled by the JP RWEE. The purpose of the published bibliography is to make readily available and accessible the various studies, policies and legislations dealing with gender issues in rural land administration in Ethiopia. The bibliography was developed in response to an identified information gap and will provide scholars and land experts access to valuable studies and research and enable them to contribute to improved land administration practices in Ethiopia through evidenced based lobbying. The bibliography is published on the MoA website<sup>8</sup>.

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

As part of the main objective of the Ethiopian Gender Equality Network in Agriculture (EGENA), established in 2015, a monthly research dissemination virtual platform was established by the JP RWEE with ATA and the MOA. The forum is a key platform to enhance coordination and information/knowledge sharing for gender mainstreaming by participating organizations as well enabling the joint identification of advocacy and policy issues. The platform (held virtually due

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<sup>8</sup> ([Home - Ministry of Agriculture \(moa.gov.et\)](http://Home - Ministry of Agriculture (moa.gov.et))).

to COVID restrictions) was established to ensure the running of a regular forum on issues related to agriculture and gender. The virtual research dissemination forum entitled ‘Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Research Dissemination Forum’ was started in November 2020.

In commemoration of International Rural Women’s Day, JP RWEE organized a virtual meeting with the theme, ‘*The Impact of COVID-19 on Ethiopian Rural Women, experiences, coping strategies and the way forward*’. The main aim of the forum was to discuss and share information about the impact of COVID-19 on rural women between institutions, researchers and practitioners, and to learn about how they were coping with the challenges. It was attended by participants from government, non-government, agri-business incubator and research institutions. The forum has served as a good learning and sharing mechanism on how to keep interventions relevant to the target community and reduce the impact of COVID 19 on the livelihoods of women and their families. As a way forward, it was agreed that research work was needed to identify the impact of COVID-19 in projects in different areas, (not limited to JP RWEE) for a better learning and experience sharing. As a result, the research forum outlined above was started.

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

In Ethiopia, the first case of COVID-19 was detected in Addis Ababa on 13 March 2020, posing a significant risk to the country at a time of growing political, social and economic uncertainty. The Government of Ethiopia declared a State of Emergency and established several measures to contain the spread of COVID-19, including the cancellation of national elections, closure of schools, bans on social gatherings and restrictions to movement. This had substantial adverse effects on income, food and nutrition security among JP RWEE beneficiaries and affected the businesses of the cooperatives involved in the programme. Oromia region was also heavily affected by political unrest in the country which further restricted movement and interrupted business. Both Afar and Oromia suffered a devastating invasion of locusts which lasted for months and destroyed thousands of tons of crops. The desert locust infestation continues to be a threat in many regions including Afar and Oromia. It has also impacted significant numbers of JP RWEE beneficiaries, as it destroyed the grazing land and harvests, leading to losses of crops and livestock, particularly in Afar. Both regions also experienced flooding as a result of a prolonged rainy season, with the main Awash river overflowing and causing displacement, loss of crops and livestock.

As a result of the restrictions to movement and local transport, and a change to the working patterns of local government, those programme activities requiring meetings and gatherings were postponed. For instance, one of the planned activities under JP RWEE was to procure animals for beneficiaries that are engaged in beef fattening business, this was postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions and the beneficiaries were not able to engage in their business as planned. However, despite the multifaceted challenge they are facing, almost all of the programme’s beneficiaries were able to show resilience to the challenges encountered, in large part due to their cooperative membership. Most beneficiaries were able to sustain their family livelihood as they could afford to buy food items using the income, they generated through their business activities (horticulture, farming, fattening, small ruminants breeding). They were also able to draw on their savings to help them withstand the shock during the peak of the coronavirus restrictions.

### **Lessons learnt**

- The significant role of promoting a saving culture stands out as a successful programme methodology. Most beneficiaries were able to withstand the challenging of COVID-19 through the use of their savings. Prior to participating in the programme, there was no ability to save, or savings culture, among the cooperative members.
- The activities undertaken by the cooperatives enabled the majority of members to withstand the shock caused by COVID-19 and its associated restrictions.
- Some beneficiaries indicated that they have now developed confidence in how to manage difficult situations within their business and family.
- The basic protective measures that are being used to prevent COVID-19, including hand washing and basic hygiene, were found to be important and not always previously practiced in the communities. Given the

prevalence of disease related to poor hygiene practices in the target areas, most beneficiaries stressed it would be good if the practice continue in the future to help prevent disease. This includes the routine provision of water and soap at meetings and gatherings.

- The programme was able to adapt to the challenging situation and the programme team worked remotely through online mechanisms. Coordination with JP RWEE team members, government and implementing partners was able to continue, although there were some network challenges at times
- The limited ICT network in Ethiopia, and the lack of digital access, meant that it was not possible transfer to a digital modality of programme delivery for beneficiaries
- The programme’s approach of working through local government extension workers and structures meant that support and supervision was still able to be carried out despite the restrictions to movement which limited travel for JP RWEE participating agency staff.
- A lengthy delay was experienced in having the MOU signed by government which delayed the start of activities. In the future, improved coordination is required among all involved stakeholders to ensure that all necessary bureaucratic processes are cleared in time.

## **II. Qualitative assessment**

Due to the delays in programme implementation in 2020, it is only possible to make a limited qualitative assessment for this reporting period. A thorough qualitative assessment will be possible at the final report stage, following the completion of the no cost extension period. At this stage, most of the monitoring that took place during the programme focused on the impact of COVID-19 on the beneficiaries. In November 2020, a rapid assessment was carried out by the JP RWEE participating UN Agencies and local government to determine how programme beneficiaries had been impacted by the pandemic and its associated restrictions to daily life.

It was found that, whilst some beneficiaries had been able to prove resilience to the shocks, others had found it more difficult. For example, some cooperative members found it difficult to sustain their businesses during the restrictions to movement and the periods where markets were closed or trading hours restricted. Fresh produce, such as dairy and horticultural products, that they planned to sell became spoiled and income was lost. Beneficiaries relied on savings to cover the shortfall in income, meaning that savings were depleted. Some beneficiaries took out loans from within the cooperatives but were concerned that they would be unable to repay them. In some Woredas, grain mills were shut down for security reasons, impacting the availability and accessibility of processed foods. Some of the beneficiaries described having to skip meals due to reduced food and nutrition security. In places where the food shortage was critical, the government has supplied emergency food rations to communities, including JP RWEE beneficiaries.

However, despite the challenges, almost all beneficiaries in both Afar and Oromia region significantly appreciated the difference made by the JP RWEE and recognized that it was as a result of their participation in the programme that they were not more severely impacted. Their participation in the JP RWEE meant that they had the capacity and knowledge required to both sustain and adapt their business. The training on saving helped them significantly, as they were able to cope with the hard times by drawing on their savings. They also had access to credit through the cooperatives if needed. For those beneficiaries who were able to keep their business running, they were able to sustain their family livelihood as they could afford to buy food items using the income they generated through their business activities. They were also able to get additional loans after they presented their challenges to their respective cooperatives.

With regards to the coordination and implementation of the programme during this critical period, although movement of the UN participating agencies was severely restricted for the majority of the year, implementation and monitoring was successfully carried out by local government staff and implementing partners on the ground. The UN agencies were able to carry out coordination through virtual mechanisms. Furthermore, key partnerships, such as that with Adamai Tulu Agricultural Research Centre, and the ongoing work on policy development with government ministries, was also able to continue despite the challenges, making significant progress towards the achievement of the programme goals.

	<b>Achieved Indicator Targets</b>	<b>Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)</b>	<b>Source of Verification</b>
<b>Outcome 1 Improved food and nutrition security</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>			
<p><b>Indicator 1.1.1 Number of targeted rural women and their household members with improved nutrition practices and can demonstrate it for other through the existing government extension structures</b></p> <p><b>Baseline:</b>  <b>Oromia :87.6% eat three times a day;10.2% eat twice a day and 2 % eat once a day</b>  <b>Afar :39.9% eat three times a day; 34.1 % eat twice a day; 20.3 % eat once a day</b></p> <p><b>Planned Target:</b> 2500 Rural women (1,500 existing and 1000 new)</p>	<p>90% of the project beneficiaries in Oromia were able to feed themselves and their households 3 times per day until December 2019.</p> <p>About 35% of target rural women in Afar feed three times; consume diverse dietary &amp; nutrient composition.</p> <p>with the aim at improving the food security, nutrition and agriculture skills of target rural women, bureau of Agriculture in Oromia and Afar Livestock, Agriculture and Natural Resource Development Bureau (the service providers) have supported the rural women beneficiaries on improved nutrition practices through different types of practical training and conducting joint market visits with the beneficiaries to introduce them to different vegetables and fruits. Accordingly, one training was provided for each region.</p>	<p>During the reporting period, there was no official assessment conducted to measure this indicator. Hence, there is a need to conduct assessment to get information on how many households can feed themselves 3 times per day. The assessment is expected to be conducted post COVID - 19.</p>	<p>Year-end monitoring data collected through the Bureau of Agriculture in Oromia and Bureau of Pastoral and Agriculture Development in Afar.</p>

<p><b>Indicator 1.1.2 Number of feed compositions centers established, and number of additional products types of women business groups have newly added as their products</b></p> <p><b>Baseline: -</b></p> <p><b>Planned Target: 3,500 rural women (2500 existing and 1000 new)</b></p>	<p>A feed composition center was not established during 2020.</p>	<p>It was planned for the new construction of shades that will benefit 1000 women. However, due to COVID-19 and the political instability of the county has limited movement and activities. For this reason, the project was not able to achieve its planned goal during 2020 and will be done by 2021.</p>	<p>Data collected through the Bureau of Agriculture in Oromia</p>
<p><b>Output 1.2 Rural women have greater capacity to enhance and control local food security reserves and their production</b></p>			
<p><b>Indicator 1.2.1 Number of rural women accessing innovative food processing plants.</b></p> <p><b>Baseline: None</b></p>	<p>A total of 319 rural women (100 in Oromia and 219 in Afar) accessed innovative food processing plants, distributed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In Oromia, milk processing equipment and irrigation kits were distributed to 100 rural women.</li> </ul>	<p>In the reporting period it was planned to reach 500 women, but the project was able to achieve 319 women in Oromia and Afar due to the restriction of</p>	<p>January – June 2020, monitoring data collected through the Bureau of Agriculture in Oromia and Bureau of Pastoral and Agriculture Development in Afar.</p>

<p><b>Planned Target:</b> 2000 Rural women (1,500 existing and 500 new)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Afar, different agricultural inputs, and milk processing equipment were distributed to 353 rural women</li> <li>• Moreover, 16 women cooperative leaders in one Woredas of Afar Regional State were equipped with milk processing machineries.</li> </ul>	<p>movement and gathering of people.</p>	
<p><b>Indicator 1.2.2: Number of rural women accessing the technologies/CSA inputs</b></p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> <b>Planned Target: 700 Rural Women (300 existing and 400 Newly targeted)</b></p>	<p>A total of 512 (of which 212 women and men are accessed technologies and CSA inputs in the reporting year) as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 men and 10 women were trained on the operation of the fodder machine in Hawigudina business cooperative of Oromia region.</li> <li>• Postharvest technologies were distributed to 100 rural women that benefitted 60 households in 3 Woredas of Oromia and Afar.</li> <li>• A shade for cattle fattening business center that benefitted 75 rural women has been constructed in Yaya Gulele Woreda of Oromia region.</li> <li>• 102 (38 male and 64 female) cooperative members, local government leaders, and community members trained and took part in planting trees and fruits at Adami Tulu Jidokombocha district.</li> </ul>	<p>In both Oromia and Afar regions, beneficiaries as well as experts working for JP RWEE are highly affected by COVID-19. The restriction in movement and the social distancing has hindered day to day activities and affected the implementation of activities as planned. Remaining number will be reached in 2021.</p>	<p>Data collected through BoWCAs, and CPAs</p>
<p><b>Outcome 2 Rural women have increased income to secure their livelihoods.</b></p>			

<b>Output 2.1 Rural women have enhanced entrepreneurship skills and value chains to access markets for their products</b>			
<p><b>Indicator 2.1.1 Number of targeted women gaining access to diversified market opportunities and sales record of business groups</b></p> <p><b>Baseline: Oromia: All targeted women (households) have one to two sources of income (agriculture and livestock)</b>  <b>Afar: All targeted women (households) have one to two sources of income (agriculture and livestock)</b>  <b>And (14-16% engage in labor work like Food for work programme and petty trade for subsistence life)</b>  <b>Planned target: 2500 women (1500 existing and 1000 new)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Based on the activity done on market linkage, during the year 2020, six women agro-business cooperatives with 860 members) were linked to buyers using different mechanisms and have managed to generate an income of 745,117 birr (18, 627 USD).</li> </ul>	<p>In the year 2020, it is planned to benefit 1000 rural women and benefited 860 women. Due to the challenges faced by COVID-19, this number will be achieved in 2021</p>	<p>Data collected through BoWCAs, and CPAs</p>
<p><b>Indicator 2.1.2 Number of target women with increased marketing skills of specific value chains</b></p> <p><b>Baseline: Oromia 26 women received entrepreneurship and business skills trainings</b></p>	<p>During the reporting period, 150 women beneficiaries were trained on marketing skills of specific value chain, divides as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In Afar region, Debel Kebele 50 women beneficiaries trained on business plan, financial management and bookkeeping practice.</li> <li>In two of the project sites, namely- Adami Tullu Jido Kombolcha and Yayya</li> </ul>	<p>It was planned to benefit new 1000 rural women but only 150 women benefited, and it is under achievement. The main reasons are the restriction in movement and social gathering due to COVID-19 and the</p>	<p>Data collected through BoWCAs, and CPAs</p>

<p><b>Received BDS (counselling, coaching, cooperative formation etc.):</b> <b>280 women</b> <b>Afar- 68 women received training on entrepreneurship and business skills</b></p> <p><b>Planned Target: 2500 Rural Women (1,500 existing and 1000 new)</b></p>	<p>Gullele woredas, 100 participants (24 man and 76 women) are trained on business management and climate smart agriculture.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In the bazaar organized by the collaboration of Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Associations AACCSA) and JP RWEE partners, training on market linkage and networking was provided to participants.</li> </ul>	<p>political instability in the country. The remaining activity will be conducted in 2021.</p>	
<p><b>Indicator 2.1.3 Number of trained woreda experts and RUSACCOs staff with increased skills to deliver training on basic business skills and entrepreneurship.</b> <b>Planned Target: 24 Staff (18 from woreda IPs offices and 6 RUSACCOs hired staff)</b></p>	<p>48 (8 men and 40 women) JP RWEE business cooperatives leaders and members were trained on a training of trainers in basic business skill and entrepreneurship.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The trainings were facilitated from 25 March to 2 April 2020 in four woredas of Oromia:</li> <li>• Adamitulu Judo Kombolcha (25-26 March),</li> <li>• Dodola (28-29 March),</li> <li>• Chancho (28-29 March), and</li> </ul> <p>Yaya Gullele (1-2 April).</p>	<p>The planned activity is achieved.</p>	<p>Data collected through BoWCAs, and CPAs</p>
<p><b>Indictor 2.1.4: Number of Rural Women groups/cooperatives with access to better market.</b> <b>Planned Target: 12 Women cooperatives with at least 2400 members (ten previous RUSACCOS and two new ones)</b></p>	<p>Six women agro-business cooperatives (2 Milk processing and 2 cattle fattening business, grain producing and 1 grinding service business cooperative) were linked to buyers. The cooperatives took part in the exhibitions and bazaars organized at Woreda level. They were also supported to sell their products to diversified areas including in Addis Ababa through bazar</p>	<p>The planned was 12 but only six cooperatives were able to get a better market. Given the restriction in marketplaces during COVID-19, the achievement is good.</p>	

	and exhibitions and personal linkages and networking.	The remaining will be done by 2021.	
<b>Indicator 2.1.5. Number of targeted rural women/girls in agribusiness enterprises /cooperatives with improved joint business management skills. Planned Target 700 rural women (400 female IDPs and 300 women from host community</b>	100 participants (24 man and 76 women) are trained on business management and climate smart agriculture.	The plan was 700 but only 100 rural women were trained. Given the restriction on social gathering the planned activity will be done in 2021.	Data collected through BoWCAs, and CPAs
<b>Output 2.2 Rural women have increased access to decent wage employment opportunities</b>			
<b>Indicator 2.2.1. A Number of new targeted rural women accessing revolving fund. Baseline: Oromia: 38.2% of women benefited from financial services The financial services found to be gender insensitive. Afar: None  Planned Target: 1,700 Rural Women (700 women from existing RUSACCOS/ (agri business coops and 1,000 from new groups/RUSACCOS)</b>	The total numbers of beneficiaries have reached 3,800 rural women (3,311 in Oromia and 489 in Afar) during the reporting period.	It has been overachieved. There is effort to benefit the rural women to the limits and most of them also return back their loan on timely bases. This has allowed most women to benefit from the revolving fund.	Data collected through BoWCAs, and CPAs

<p><b>Indicator 2.2.1 B. Changes identified by rural women after their access to revolving fund are documented.</b>  <b>Planned Target:</b> RUSACCOS/ (Agri business coops and 1,000 from new groups/RUSACCOS)</p>	<p>With the coming of COVID-19 and political crisis in Ethiopia, most of the beneficiaries are affected negatively. They were not able to run their business as before and their savings were compromised to the greater extent.</p>	<p>It was planned to document the change brought to the lives of the rural women after obtaining the revolving fund. It was planned by 2020 1000 rural women will access the revolving fund. However, this was not possible due to COVID-19 and political instability. This will be done in 2021.</p>	<p>Data collected through a rapid assessment conducted by the technical working group</p>
<p><b>Indicator 2.2.2</b> Number of woreda offices and RUSACCOS strengthen by providing office and field equipment's  <b>Baseline: None</b>  <b>Planned Target:</b> 11 new RUSACCOS</p>	<p>This activity is not done</p>	<p>This activity is delayed due to the signing of the MOU and will be done in 2021.</p>	<p>Data collected through Oromia and Afar Cooperative Promotion Agencies.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 2.2.3.</b> Organize experience sharing visit for the host communities RUSACCOS committee members to share best practices from existing and other successful RUSACCOS on their access to financial services.  <b>Baseline: None</b></p>	<p>The visit was attended by 28 individuals (23 women and 5 men), including business cooperative leaders and members by members of Megerisa Business Cooperatives of Yaya Gulale district visiting the fattening center of Hunde Gudina Business Cooperative and observing their CSA practices, at Anano shiso Kebele of Adami Tulu Judo Kombolcha district.</p>	<p>It was planned to benefit 150 rural women but only 28 individuals were able to benefit from the experience sharing. The remaining number will be done in 2021.</p>	<p>Data collected through BoWCAs, and CPAs and SWAA-_E</p>

<p><b>Planned Target:</b> 150 rural women from three RUSACCOs (50 women from IDPs and 100 from host community)</p>			
<p><b>Outcome 3: Rural women have enhanced leadership and participation in their communities and in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programme.</b></p>			
<p><b>Indicator 3.1.1 Number of women with improved leadership, assertiveness, and management skills</b></p> <p><b>Baseline: Oromia: no woman in leadership position. Afar-: only in their self-help groups /women SACCOs</b></p> <p><b>Planned Target: 10% of the target women will be participating in leadership and decision making in rural institutions including RUSACCOs and community-based organization.</b></p>	<p>80% of the target are leading their agro -business cooperatives, RUSACCOS, represented in Kebele Aba Geda council, (as secretary), in the kebele administration etc.</p>	<p>Based on the monitoring visit conducted to JP RWEE implementing woredas and it was disclosed that most of the RUSACCOS are led by women.</p>	<p>Based on year-end monitoring data collected through BoWCAs, Implementing partners, and CPA sand JP RWEE Midterm evaluation, report 2018.</p>
<p><b>Output 3.1 Rural women, including young women have enhanced confidence and leadership skills to participate in local governance</b></p>			
<p><b>Indicator 3.1.1 Number of women with improved leadership, assertiveness and management skills</b></p>	<p>Until December 2020 total of 1294 have strengthened their leadership, assertiveness and management skills and leading their cooperatives including at IDP. Of these</p>	<p>The target almost reached and the remaining will be trained 2021.</p>	<p>Data collected through BoWCAs, and CPAs and SWAA-_E</p>

<p><b>Baseline: Oromia: 200 of the target women</b>  <b>Afar - None</b>  <b>Planned Target: 1500 of the targets will have better skill and confidence</b></p>	<p>80 are at Yaya Gullele Woreda, trained on leadership, assertiveness and business management skill during the year</p>		
<p><b>Indicator 3.1.2 Number of Rural women with improved reading and writing skill through functional literacy.</b></p> <p><b>Baseline: 24.8 % of targeted rural women and 3.4% in Afar had access to training on business, cooperatives management, income generating activities, and other technical skills.</b></p> <p><b>Planned Target: 450 Rural women (300 Existing and 150 new)</b></p>	<p>Following COVID-19 outbreak, the government has declared state of emergency. Hence, social gatherings are banned and restrictions on vehicle movement have been imposed. The activities related to this indicator were not implemented during the reporting period.</p>	<p>The planned activity will be done in 2021 keeping the COVID-19 prevention in mind.</p>	<p>No information available</p>
<p><b>Indicator 3.1.3 Number of rural women and government experts with mutual understanding about the importance of integration</b></p>	<p>This activity was not conducted</p>	<p>Following COVID-19 outbreak, the government has declared state of emergency. Hence, social gatherings are banned and</p>	

<p>between each community and willing to participate women from IDP in Unions, cooperatives and local leadership.</p> <p><b>Planned Target: 150 participants (10 Government staff and 65 women from target at IDPs, 65 Women leaders of groups/RUSACCOs at host community and 10 male cooperative and union leaders.</b></p>		<p>restrictions on vehicle movement have been imposed. The activities related to this indicator were not implemented during the reporting period. And it will be implemented in 2021.</p>	
<p><b>Indicator 3.1.4 A Number of community members sensitized on gender issues and rural women’s economic empowerment</b></p> <p><b>Target: 6000 (4200 rural women + spouses and family) people</b></p>	<p>18,000 Community members Sensitized on gender and COVID 19 taking in to account the precaution of COVID 19. But putting figure for change in perception need qualitative assessment.</p>		<p>Data collected through BoWCAs, and CPAs and SWAA-_E</p>
<p><b>Indicator 3.1.5. A Number of women and community members who are aware of their rights and implement it on supportive way.</b></p>	<p>This activity was not conducted</p>	<p>COVID-19 outbreak, the government has declared state of emergency. Hence, social gatherings are banned and restrictions on vehicle movement have been</p>	

<b>Indicator 3.1.5.B Number of Community members at the host community with better understanding about the situation of the IDP and availing support to internally displaced women/girls.</b>		imposed. The activities related to this indicator were not implemented during the reporting period. This activity will be implemented in 2021.	
<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 3.3.1- Number of rural women that participated in the learning visits and have strengthened their knowledge. Baseline: None in both Oromia and Afar Regions. Planned Target: 40 rural women</b>	28 beneficiaries (5 men and 23 women) in Oromia region took part in learning visit.		Data collected from BoWCAs, SWAA-E and CPAs.
<b>Outcome 4: A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women</b>			
<b>Output 4.1. Agriculture key stakeholders, including relevant government bodies, capacity enhanced to conduct gender analysis and integrate gender sensitive indicators and targets in planning and budgeting.</b>			
<b>Indicator 4.1.1 Number of experts and officials in relevant government sector offices with increased capacity to conduct gender analysis and integrate gender sensitive indicators and targets in planning and budgeting.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experts that work in rural women’s land rights were trained on gender and land issues (8 Female and 20 Male).</li> <li>• 28 representatives from Woreda administration were trained on Climate Smart Agriculture.</li> </ul>	The training planned for 2020 was postponed due to COVID 19	Training report from UN Women

<p><b>Baseline: None</b>  <b>Planned Target: 60 experts (40 male and 20 women from Agriculture based organizations)</b></p>			
<p><b>Indicator 4.1.2 Number of experts trained</b> on the effects of climate change on women and their contributions to mitigate the impact.  <b>Baseline: None</b>  <b>Planned Target: 75 individuals from 10 Sectors</b></p>	<p>a total 130 (58 female and 72 male) Woreda committee members, government sector offices and kebele cabinet members and community representatives in Oromia region were trained and sensitized on the effects of climate change on women and their contributions to mitigate the impact  Of this 102 were reached in 2020</p>		<p>Data collected from BoWCAs, SWAA-E and CPAs.</p>
<p><b>Output 4.2 Greater availability of tools and data to track progress in the economic empowerment of rural women</b></p>			
<p><b>Indicator 4.2.1 Gender Analysis of the National Agricultural policy and or strategy and programmes completed.</b>  <b>Baseline:</b>  <b>Planned Target: To have a gender responsive national Agricultural Policy.</b></p>	<p>The process of developing the National Agriculture Policy and strategy has started. A small network that discusses and works on the matter has been established that consists of UN agencies and government offices in the agriculture sector. A focal person who follows the routine activity has been assigned.</p>		
<p><b>Indicator 4.2.2 Number of researches/availabilities of evidence-based research) and actions conducted to inform</b></p>	<p>The following document has been conducted during the reporting period.</p>		<p>Bibliography that is conducted in collaboration with The Ethiopian Women’s Land Right task force</p>

<p><b>policy development and actions for gender equality</b>  <b>Baseline: Only national level</b>  <b>Preliminary Gender Profile</b></p> <p><b>Planned Target: One</b>  Assessment Report</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Rapid assessment on Gender and Agricultural Mechanization conducted with MOA.</li> <li>2) Policy brief on agricultural mechanization, at <a href="https://africa.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/06/gender-and-agricultural-mechanization-policy-brief">https://africa.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/06/gender-and-agricultural-mechanization-policy-brief</a></li> <li>3. A bibliography on gender and land issues in Ethiopia has been developed. It is agreed to be posted on the website of the ministry of Agriculture for wide circulation and benefit.</li> </ol>		<p><a href="https://africa.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/06/gender-and-agricultural-mechanization-in-ethiopia">https://africa.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/06/gender-and-agricultural-mechanization-in-ethiopia</a></p>
<p><b>Output 4.3: An enabling environment is promoted to reflect rural women’s priorities in regional policy processes.</b></p>			
<p><b>Indicator 4.3.1 Number of dialogue mechanisms/forums on agriculture, CSA, rural development and women’s economic rights (WEE) conducted</b></p> <p><b>Baseline: One</b>  <b>Planned Target: 2 Dialogues forums</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A monthly ‘Research dissemination Forum’ has been established starting from December 2020. The main aim of the forum is to share information and learning on gender equality and women economic empowerment issues. In the forum, numbers of academicians, students, experts, project, and government representatives have shared their research finding and have taken part in the session.</li> <li>• Every two weeks the Ethiopian Women’s Land Rights Task Force is conducting a virtual meeting on laws and policies in the agriculture sector that affect the rights of women. So far, a total of four meeting has been conducted.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The minute of the Ethiopian Women’s Land Rights Task Force.</li> <li>• Minute of the research dissemination forum.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Indicator 4.3.2 Number of gender equality networks/forums organized to influence national plans, laws and policies promoting economic empowerment.</b></p> <p><b>Baseline: None</b> <b>Planned Target: One forum</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ethiopian Women’s Land Rights Task Force.</li> <li>• the Ethiopian Gender Equality in Agriculture Network are the leading networks that work with JP RWEE to influence policies.</li> </ul>		

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

During 2020 the following assessment or evaluations were conducted by the support of JP RWEE:

- Rapid assessment on the impact of COVID-19 on JP RWEE Beneficiaries.
- Monitoring visit to IDP sites in Sululta and Gelan
- A brief on the rights of women and vulnerable groups on land expropriation

### IV. Resources

<b>UN Agency</b>	<b>Budget Approved and Released (Sweden and Norway)</b>	<b>Expenditure as per MPTF GATEWAY</b>	<b>Expenditure Rate</b>
WFP	\$276,747	\$243,747	88.08%
UN Women	\$901,123	\$593,189	65.83%
FAO	\$933,418	\$520,031	69.70%