



JOINT PROGRAMME ON:
Accelerating Progress towards the
Economic Empowerment of Rural Women

**ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARDS THE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF RURAL WOMEN
BI-ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT
REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2020**

<p>Programme Title & Project Number</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme Title: Accelerating Progress Towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women in Guatemala MPTF Office Project Reference Number: 00092001 	<p>Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results</p> <p>Municipalities of Panzos, San Miguel Tucuru, Santa Catalina La Tinta, in the Department of Alta Verapaz, in Guatemala</p> <p>The strategic result is to secure rural women’s livelihoods and rights in the context of sustainable development and the SDGs.</p> <p>Direct beneficiaries 8,929 (7,061 women and 1,868 men) Indirect beneficiaries 38,165 (23,041 women and 15,124 men)</p>
<p>Participating Organization(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FAO, IFAD, UNWOMEN, WFP 	<p>Implementing Partners</p> <p>Association for Integral Development -ADRI-</p>
<p>Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</p> <p>Total approved budget as per project document: MPTF Contribution, Norway:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> by Agency US\$ 245,481 FAO US\$ 49,776 WFP US\$145,929 UNWOMEN US\$49,776 <p>MPTF Contribution, Sweden:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> by Agency FAO US\$ 977,688 IFAD US\$ 250,500 WFP US\$ 1,652,292 UNWOMEN US\$ 1,307,774 <p>Total approved budget: US \$ US\$ 4,188,254</p>	<p>Programme Duration</p> <p>Overall Duration 6.5 YEARS</p> <p>Start Date (15 10 2014) End Date (30 06 2021)</p>
<p>Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.</p> <p>Assessment/Review - if applicable <i>please attach</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: dd.mm.yyyy</p> <p>Mid-Term Evaluation Report – if applicable <i>please attach</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: dd.mm.yyyy</p>	<p>Report Submitted By</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name: Laura Melo Title: Representative Participating Organization (Lead): WFP Email address: laura.melo@wfp.org



ACRONYMS

ADRI	Asociación Integral de desarrollo - Integral Development Association
COCODE	Consejo Comunitario de Desarrollo - Community Development Council
COCOSAN	Comité Comunitario de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional - Community Council for Food and Nutrition Security
COMUDE	Consejo Municipal de Desarrollo – Municipal Development Council
COMUSAN	Comisión Municipal de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional - Municipal Council for Food and Nutrition Security
CONALFA	Comité Nacional de Alfabetización -National Literacy Committee
DMM	Dirección Municipal de la Mujer - Municipal Directorate for Women
DIFOPROCO	Dirección de Fortalecimiento para la Organización Productiva y Comercialización- Directorate for the Strengthening of Productive Organization and Commercialization
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FODIGUA	Fondo de Desarrollo Indígena Guatemalteco - Guatemalan Indigenous Development Fund
FONTIERRA	Fondo de Tierras- Land Fund
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
INAB	Instituto Nacional de Bosques -National Forestry Institute
INTECAP	Instituto Técnico de Capacitación - Technical Training Institute
JP	Joint Programme
JP RWEE	Joint Programme “Rural Women Economic Empowerment”
MAGA	Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Alimentación – Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food
MIDES	Ministerio de Desarrollo Social – Ministry for Social Development
MINEDUC	Ministerio de Educación - Ministry of Education
MINECO	Ministerio de Economía - Ministry of Economy
MINFIN	Ministerio de Finanzas - Ministry of Finance
MINTRAB	Ministerio de Trabajo - Ministry of Labor
MPTF	Fondo Fiduciario de Socios Múltiples - Multi-Partner Trust Fund
MSPAS	Ministerio de Salud Pública y Asistencia Social - Ministry for Public Health and Social Assistance.
PAFFEC	Programa de Agricultura Familiar para el Fortalecimiento de la Economía Campesina - Family Farming Programme for Peasant Economy Strengthening
PNPDIM	Política Nacional de Promoción y Desarrollo Integral de la Mujer – National Policy for the Advancement and Integral Development of Women
PEO	Plan de Equidad de Oportunidades – Equal Opportunity Plan
RIC	Registro de Información Castatral – Registry of Cadastral Information
RIMS	Risk and Impacts Management
RWEE	Rural Women Economic Empowerment in Guatemala
SAA	Secretaría de Asuntos Agrarios - Secretary of Agrarian Affairs
SEGEPLAN	Secretaria de Planificación y Programación de la Presidencia – Secretariat of Programming and Planning of the Presidency
SEPREM	Secretaria Presidencial de la Mujer – Presidential Secretariat for Women
SESAN	Secretaría de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional – Secretariat of Food and Nutrition Security
UGMAGA	Unidad de Género del MAGA- MAGA Gender Unit
UN Women	UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women.
WEAI	Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index
WFP	World Food Programme

NARRATIVE REPORT

Executive Summary

This annual report highlights the progress achieved from January to December 2020 of the Joint Programme ‘Accelerating Progress toward the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women’ (JP RWEE) in Guatemala. The programme was jointly implemented by FAO, IFAD, UN Women and WFP in the districts of San Miguel Tucurú, Santa Catalina La Tinta and Panzós in the region of Alta Verapaz. The overarching goal of the JP RWEE is to secure rural women’s livelihoods and rights in the context of sustainable development. The total beneficiary population of the JP RWEE in the municipalities of Panzós, San Miguel Tucurú and Santa Catalina La Tinta was 4,622 people (3,716 women and 906 men), belonging to 72 rural women's organizations and groups.

In March 2020 the Government of Guatemala adopted a series of measures to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Consequently, collective efforts were made by the JP RWEE to respond to the effects of COVID-19 on rural women in the targeted communities, including the adaptation of the joint work plan. A no cost extension was approved by the programme donors in response to the significant delays caused to implementation. Continuing restrictions affected the full implementation of activities throughout the year, and also had a significant impact on women’s access to markets and livelihood opportunities. However, the beneficiary population received continuous support throughout the implementation period, including through remote mechanisms such as mobile telephone follow-up. Hygiene supplies were also purchased and distributed which, following lifting of the initial lockdown, enabled the continuation of essential meetings with a maximum of 10 participants in line with coronavirus prevention protocols. A dedicated training component on good practices for the prevention of COVID-19 was developed and implemented throughout the year, with topics including hygienic methods, proper use of hygiene materials and social distancing.

The main achievements were recorded in the first quarter of the year, which include improved productivity and increased sales of farm and backyard surpluses, as well as significant increased income generation through agricultural and non-agricultural enterprises. This was achieved through technical assistance and training provided by the JP RWEE in topics such as production costs, quality control, food safety and local marketing. The transfer of knowledge on food and nutritional security and the use of time-saving technologies improved the application of good practices on the biological use and consumption of food amongst beneficiaries and their households. Furthermore, women continued to generate income and use resources through the JP RWEE established community savings and loan groups for purchasing essential provisions during the pandemic. At the end of the year, Guatemala, specifically Alta Verapaz and the Polochic area, was badly affected by two storms, ETA and IOTA, which caused serious flooding, landslides, roads and communities without road communication. As a result, some beneficiaries and organizations under the JP RWEE incurred damages to agricultural machinery and infrastructure, as well as livestock losses. The medium-term impact of this will be further known in 2021.

As part of the programme’s approach to sustainability work was carried out to capacity build local municipalities on the community savings and loans methodology and transfer good practices for incorporation into future local development interventions. Support was also provided to the directors of the municipal women's offices to provide training to women leaders in the municipality on the topics of women's participation at the community level. At the national level, with the support of the JP RWEE, the National Coalition for the Economic Empowerment of Women was formed in March, which is a multisectoral alliance that seeks to support women to increase their livelihoods through business, entrepreneurship and employment. It also aims to achieve financial inclusion and access to credit for women's entrepreneurship as a mechanism to reduce poverty. The Coalition has also promoted dialogue with the private sector to achieve the productive inclusion of rural women.

Purpose

The JP RWEE in Guatemala is fully aligned with the national government's development priorities and strategies. The goal of the JP RWEE is to secure rural women's livelihoods and rights in the context of sustainable development through four programme outcomes i) improved food and nutritional security; ii) increased income to secure livelihoods; iii) enhanced participation and leadership of women in rural life and institutions and iv) gender responsive policy environment.

Narrative Reporting on Results

I. Outcomes

Outcome 1: Women in rural areas have improved food and nutrition security.

- 857 women from 34 groups have produced broiler chickens and pigs, and home gardens for self-consumption, thus improving animal protein consumption. (524 for self-consumption and 333 for commercialization).
- 857 women involved in production (524 for self-consumption and 333 for commercialization) were trained in the following topics: 124 women in agronomic management of vegetables through the use of macro-tunnels with their irrigation system, 49 women in good agricultural practices to intensify the production of cassava, sweet potato and plantain for flour, 103 women in good livestock practices in egg production, 57 women in good livestock practices to intensify tilapia production and 524 in Food and Nutrition Security (FNS), as well as in the transfer of good agricultural practices for the production of home gardens.
- Technical assistance in food security was provided to 1,012 women, mainly in the maintenance of home gardens and their diversification with local or native species.
- 10 MAGA Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food extensionists (8 men/ 2 women) were trained in good production practices for tilapia, eggs, vegetables, broiler chickens and pig production, so that they could then provide technical support to 857 women participating in the project, and approximately 10 communities and 25 families per community in each of the three municipalities.
- The families reduced the percentages of loss before, during and after the harvest by 28.5% in corn and beans, following the implementation of the following good practices: doubling of the cornfield and harvesting at the indicated time, adequate shelling and selection of the grain and seed, adequate drying, cleaning of the grain, humidity control for storage, and continued storing their corn grain in improved artisanal corn cribs. As a result, the participating women increased their corn production by 1.85 quintals during the year (66.4% increase), compared to the previous year (49.5%), giving them a total of 20.04 more quintals of corn (39% increase), which represents 7.51 additional months of reserve, compared to the previous year (33 %). In the case of beans, during the six-month period, there was an increase of 0.45 quintals of beans compared to the previous six-month period, giving them a total of 9.31 quintals more, which represents 15.96 additional months of reserve.
- The women who have implemented post-harvest techniques and good practices have increased their corn and bean reserves, thus helping to reduce expenses in the purchase of basic grains in the market and, therefore, have increased their families' cash savings by 30% to an equivalent of \$209.00 in the case of corn and \$353.00 in the case of beans, average per family.
- Follow-up training was provided to 857 women on a total of 14 good practices, 10 in the biological use and consumption of food, including: food safety, washing the sink, safe water, consumption of vegetables and fruits, hygiene in the home, maintenance of water tanks, proper food preservation, using containers to serve food, consumption habits, separation of drinking and domestic water, and Covid-19 prevention best practices, including hand washing with soap and water, hand disinfection with alcohol, proper use of masks and distancing between people. These last good practices were

promoted by the project participants through printed bulletins, as well as through social media where there was internet access.

- Fourteen groups of 333 women in the three municipalities were supported with agricultural supplies, mainly for the production of tilapia, meat, chicken meat, vegetables, eggs, pork and cassava, sweet potato and plantain flour.
- 1,102 women and 585 families were linked to non JP RWE E emergency programmes being implemented by UN Women and WFP and received emergency case transfers and basic grains during the period of hardship brought about by the multiple crises.
- The contents and methodology of the module "The importance of women's and girls' health for community development" and "The importance of prevention of violence against women and girls in healthy eating, nutrition and health" were adapted and a face-to-face training of trainers (ToT) workshop was facilitated with the promoter and technical team (7 women/2 men). As a result of this workshop, planning was generated for the realization of workshops at the organizational level to address the training and awareness process on nutrition, health promotion, including sexual and reproductive health, focusing on gender equality and cultural relevance.
- The in-person activities were carried out simultaneously in the three municipalities, taking care of security measures to avoid COVID-19 infection, with the following results:
 - 1,066 people: 774 women and 292 men, strengthened their Food and Nutrition Security FNS capacities by training in "The importance of women's and girls' health to achieve community development", identifying the challenges of women and girls to change customs of unequal food distribution and the importance of working with men for good food and nutrition in the home; considering practical examples on the barriers to access to food that women still have in the Polochic region.
 - 1,253 people: 886 women and 367 men were trained in topics on "Sexual and Reproductive Health in the struggle for change throughout life", with very good acceptance by the men and the identification of actions they can take to favour the change of customs that can put women's lives and their health at risk.
 - 1,206 people, 839 women and 367 men were trained on new aspects related to the "Prevention of Violence against women and girls in healthy eating, nutrition and health", defining lines of collaboration and support for men to work towards its eradication.

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

- 333 rural women from 14 groups implemented productive activities for the commercialization of fish, eggs and vegetables, and follow up support was also carried out on the consolidation of the commercialization of cassava, sweet potato and plantain flour, as well as training in good manufacturing practices and business skills.
- Three business models were developed for poultry (eggs), tilapia, and vegetable production, as well as three market studies for these products. The market studies were analyzed in the department of Alta Verapaz, and the results were shared with the women in order to make appropriate decisions, such as selling prices based on production costs, identify market segments, and approach potential formal markets. It also helped to identify new equipment and technologies to improve the productivity of each of the products mentioned above. These models are already in an acceleration phase, which means that each business is growing progressively.
- Two groups of 49 women from two communities in the municipality of Tukurú have completed the construction of a flour processing plant, with which they intend to improve the basic safety and manufacturing conditions of their product. The same 49 women have received training in tax culture and technical assistance in setting up the flour marketing company.
- Despite the pandemic, a total of \$123,544 was generated in gross income from associative sales and farm and backyard sales, in associative sales by 33 organizations with a total of 1,041 people (872 women and 169 men). This is through the sales generated by the following enterprises: egg production; chicken, pork and fish meat; nixtamal mills, and tortillería, production of honey, shampoo, typical dishes, bakery goods, confectionary, textiles and handicrafts, typical masks. Sales

were made through the members of the women's organizations., and marketed in community stores, private individuals and neighbours in the communities, municipal plazas and other associations, at the community, municipal and departmental levels. In the latter case, some products were distributed to other departments such as Chimaltenango and Sacatepéquez.

- 333 women increased their sales by 48% (approximately \$112.00 per month, corresponding to the sum of farm and backyard products) of corn, beans, vegetables, eggs, and flour. Comparatively, in 2019, there was 40% increase in sales (703 rural women went from US\$ 97.80 in monthly sales to US\$ 100 in monthly sales).
- Technical assistance was provided to 29 agricultural and livestock enterprises and services for products such as: broiler chicken, eggs, pigs, nixtamal mills, corn shellers, oyster mushrooms, tilapia, tortillas, beans and a purification plant, with the participation of a total of 1,078 people (802 women and 276 men).
- 357 women participate in entrepreneurship activities in non-agricultural production of honey, shampoo, weavings, textiles, handmade soap, and local foods. To carry out these activities, they have been trained in production costs, quality control, food safety, and local marketing, improving their product knowledge and adding value to their work.
- Despite the challenges of the pandemic, the community savings and loan groups were able to continue to operate during the reporting year. 46 groups, with a total of 1,114 women, have generated a total of \$212,437 and with this they have been able to access loans that they use to increase the working capital of their enterprises (purchase of fertilizers for corn production, purchase of pigs and broiler chickens, and improvement of their enterprises). In addition, the savings and profits have been used to cover basic food expenses for their families. Comparatively, in 2019 a total US\$ 106,062 was generated in savings by 46 savings groups.
- Coordination was carried out to identify 12 new women's groups for the implementation of enterprises (chickens, eggs, nixtamal mill and shelling) as well as planning for technical assistance and follow-up of the associative marketing processes.
- Eight representatives of three women's organizations of the JP RWEE were included in the Ministry of Agriculture's (MAGA) Directorate for the Strengthening of Productive Organization and Commercialization (DIFOPROCO) program to expand their capacities in local governance, organization, participatory planning, financial management, value chains and associative marketing, thereby strengthening their productive and marketing activities. Technical assistance and basic inputs were also provided for the production of oyster mushrooms and their linkage to formal markets.
- 89 women were trained by INTECAP - Technical Training Institute- in food transformation processes, which include the following:
 - o Preparation of sausages and meat derivatives.
 - o Bakery goods;
 - o Preparation of local recipes.
 - o Fish processing;
- 100 solar systems were installed in individual homes and 100 women were trained in two communities in the municipality of San Miguel Tucurú, in coordination with the Municipality and Barefoot College, which allowed them to have access to solar energy lighting in their homes, contributing to the increased use of clean energy.
- A technical assistance consultancy was implemented to support 329 women in 25 women's groups to achieve competitiveness and commercialization in the agricultural and non-agricultural production chains. This process began in June 2020 and will end in March 2021. The chains that are part of the consultancy are: tilapia, flour, poultry and eggs, vegetables, shampoo, honey and textiles.
- Follow-up was provided to promote the "li qatenamit" markets through local authorities. Three meetings were held with beneficiaries by telephone (one in each municipality).
- A total of 123 face-to-face training sessions were provided to 616 women on marketing, quality control, product presentation and image, production costs, budgets, financial control of savings and community loans, sales and distribution of products from the following enterprises: honey, textiles

(masks, typical bags, güipiles, shawls, tablecloths, table centrepieces typical blouses) handicrafts (decorative accessories for the home, covers for water dispensers, filters, covers for computers, cosmetic cases, pencil cases and crayons) chicken meat, eggs, handmade chocolate, and honey.

- 27 training sessions were held, benefiting 210 women who were trained in diversifying and improving the quality of products, regional foods, cakes and candies, face masks and handmade soap; this activity was carried out in coordination with the Secretariat of Social Works of the President's Wife -SOSEP.
- 140 women used energy-saving stoves and cisterns, which have been beneficial because they optimize the time, they dedicate to food preparation.

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

- 427 women participating in 16 organizations have been trained in leadership and sales, as well as in women's human rights and citizen participation in order to strengthen their leadership at the organizational, community and municipal levels, allowing them access to decision-making spaces.
- Within the organizations' boards of directors, 100 women represent them in activities at the community and municipal levels, which has strengthened their knowledge of their functions and the marketing of their products.
- Five women are part of the second level COCODE structure and have a voice and vote in COMUDE assemblies to approve proposals in the municipalities of La Tinta, Panzos and Tukurú.
- A group of 185 women received training on the importance of participation at the organizational, community, municipal and departmental levels.
- 122 women strengthened their knowledge in relation to women's human rights issues, with the intention of encouraging participation within the organizations.
- A total of 305 people (120 members of the Community Development Councils -COCODES- and 185 women) in the three municipalities strengthened their knowledge regarding the importance of women's participation in these structures. This training process was provided as part of the sensitization that must be carried out to create spaces for women's participation at the community and municipal levels.
- As part of the commemoration of International Women's Day, 50 women took part in walks and discussions held in the three municipalities. These activities were carried out with the intention of safeguarding women's rights. Municipal mayors and municipal women's directors participated in these activities.
- 20 women members of the boards of directors of the organizations in the three municipalities were trained in the management of projects aimed at women before the Community Development Councils -COCOCODES- and Municipal Development Councils -COMUDES-.
- With respect to Boards of Directors, there are currently 38 organizations that have internal controls for their operation (minute books, sales controls, savings and loan controls).
- Planning for training in food and nutritional security with a gender equality approach was prepared for 30 officials (25 men / 5 women) of the Council for the Development of Food and Nutritional Security -CODESAN-.
- In order to consolidate and systematize the results of the application of the GALS (Gender Learning and Action System) methodology, 92 women from 12 groups were involved. The results obtained by each one was followed up as part of the goals they defined for a calendar year, with the objective of advancing towards the vision (dream) of their personal future and that of their families. One third achieved their goals and the rest, although they advanced to different degrees, faced difficulties because of illness of family members, the effects of the mitigation measures applied and the storms. During the visits, work was done to reinforce the lessons learned for the application of GALS tools, as well as to motivate them to resume their dreams and redefine their goals for a new period.

- The process of strengthening the Municipal Women's Directors- (DMMs) was resumed with the transfer of the experience of using the methodology of community savings and loans as a tool to promote the organizational strengthening of women at the community level, through this process:
 - 15 groups in the municipality of Panzós initiated the process for the transfer of this strategy.
 - A coordination plan was established to initiate the transfer of good practices on Empowerment and community savings and loan commissions with the DMMs of La Tinta and Tukurú.
 - Technical assistance was provided to the municipal women's directors of the three municipalities (Tukurú, La Tinta and Panzos) for the preparation of their 2019-2020 annual operating plans, their annual reports on results and achievements. In coordination with the municipal women's directors and the support of municipal mayors, twelve women's organizations in the three municipalities were accredited to be part of the database of the municipality. As a result, the accreditation the Municipality grants legality to the organization, for a period of two years and guarantees the participation of women in the system of community and municipal development councils COCODES and COMUDES.
- Support was provided to the directors of the municipal women's offices to provide training to women leaders in the municipality on the topics of women's participation at the community level, the importance of their participation in the COCODES, self-esteem, economic autonomy and women's human rights; 87 women in the three municipalities participated in this training process.
- Themes were identified to strengthen some food and nutrition security (FNS) governance actions for the COCOSANs established in the communities where the Joint Program is being implemented, including:
 - For women:
 - The value of women's work in achieving food security.
 - Importance of women's participation in decisions about Food Security in the community and household.
 - Women's knowledge and its importance for food security.
 - For Institutional staff (SESAN/MAGA/other)
 - Importance of gender equality for FNS governance.
 - The public policy framework in Guatemala for women's participation in FNS governance.
 - Gender gaps for FNS governance with a gender approach.

Outcome 4. A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women

- As a linkage strategy for women's organizations, JP RWEE coordinated with the Gender Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food -MAGA-, to provide assistance to JP RWEE organizations. This was carried out through the implementation of the projects that MAGA is executing in the Polochic area, in which links have been strengthened to focus on, Economic Development (VIDER) of the MAGA and the Strategy for the promotion of women's participation of MAGA's Vice-Ministry of Food and Nutritional Security (VISAN). The linkage strategy will result in improving the living conditions of the members of the different organizations.
- With respect to economic opportunities for women in business, entrepreneurship and employment, in March the National Coalition for the Economic Empowerment of Women was signed, which is a multisectoral alliance that seeks to support women to increase their livelihoods through business, entrepreneurship and employment, it also aims to achieve financial inclusion and access to credit for women's entrepreneurship as a mechanism to reduce poverty. The signatory institutions of the Coalition, with whom it is articulated in the framework of the JP RWEE are: Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food -MAGA-, Ministry of Economy -MINECO-, Presidential

Secretariat for Women -SEPREM-, National Secretariat for Science and Technology -SENACYT-, Vice-Presidency of the Republic.

- The Coalition has also promoted dialogue with the private sector to achieve the productive inclusion of rural women. To this end, it has developed the Enlaces program¹ which incorporates the social impact of companies led by women seeking to purchase from rural women entrepreneurs. As a result of the signing of the National Coalition for the Economic Empowerment of Women, alliances have been established for the benefit of women. Further training has been provided to develop new designs in embroidery and weaving, as well as technical assistance in sewing and the use of sewing machines. It is worth noting that, as a result of the alliance with the private sector, applications for the adoption of WEPS have been received and 35 have adopted them.
- Support was provided to the Office of the Vice President of the Republic to incorporate a gender perspective in the loans in response to COVID-19 that go through the National Council for Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises.
- Technical Assistance to MAGA's Gender Unit has been maintained, through teleconferences and remote events (8 women and 1 man).
- Progress has been made in defining a validation strategy for the "Learning Routes for the empowerment of rural women" with MAGA's Gender Unit, including dissemination with MAGA agencies that can contribute elements for institutional adaptation.

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

Delays in implementation:

The Polochic area is vulnerable to different social, political and climatic events, and during the year it was affected by the pandemic and storms that hit Alta Verapaz. In this context, the COVID-19 crisis and the effects of the storms impacted the development of the planned activities. An no cost extension was approved by the donors to enable activities to resume with the allocated time required.

For example, women working in shampoo production could not access the resources required for production such as containers and raw materials, and witnessed a decrease in demand, due to some restrictions by the Government (limitation of market hours, curfew and mobility restrictions).

COVID-19 has limited the reactivation of coordination with the Municipal Council for Food and Nutrition Security -FNS-, it is expected to reactivate in the three municipalities 2021. Dialogues with the local authorities under the new government have been reactivated mostly via telephone and with some virtual meetings, and later face-to-face meetings as the prioritization of their actions was focused on taking measures to prevent the COVID-19 emergency.

There is a delay in technical assistance for inter-institutional coordination through the "Technical Board for Rural Development with a Gender and Peoples' Approach" as some government institutions are prioritizing actions within the COVID-19 framework designated by the Government.

Challenges:

As outlined above, the main challenge was in the delay of activities as a result of the global pandemic, meaning that some activities will not be completed until 2021.

In response to the difficulty of providing technical assistance and face-to-face training, an analysis was made on the provision of training, education and technical methodologies for the beneficiaries. As a result, the JP RWEE identified access to trainings and technical assistance via technology/digital platforms as an

¹ (<https://programaenlaces.org/>)

approach to consider in future planning to overcome such challenges, ensuring training videos are developed in the Q'eqchi language, which would support the beneficiaries to continue their training in the topics covered in the work plan. Such plans will be further expanded on and in 2021 the JP RWEE will deliver devices for such purposes.

The pandemic caused a decrease in the sales possibilities for some organizations, a situation that complicates the groups economically, but which has also meant a window of opportunity for new options. A case that can serve as an example is that of Mrs. Angelina Pop, who is part of the group of women weavers in Xucup, in the municipality of Panzós, who turned the crisis into an opportunity and, taking advantage of the scraps of some fabrics, began to make masks, first for the members of her family and later for the people in her community who required them. Another example is of a women's group who were able to adapt their business to antibacterial hand soap production, using natural plants, to generate income.

The implementation of remote communication strategies has made evident the degree of inequality faced by indigenous women in their access to and control over new technologies, which will require a specific strategy to overcome difficulties in the medium and long term. The provision and delivery of digital devices in 2021 will help to overcome such challenges.

The increase in the cost of some foodstuffs has had an impact on women's ability to save, which will require actions to promote processes that take into account the new normal.

The articulation between work teams has required remote and telecommunication adjustments, and access to new technologies, as well as the use of formats that have required greater follow-up and investment of resources for internet access.

Lessons learned:

There was increase in demand for three main products, eggs, vegetables and fish, due to raised awareness in the programme area relating to the consumption of certain healthy foods to protect the immune system in the face of the health crisis. As a result, women have reported that more of their products were sold locally, increasing income generation.

Food provisions available from the backyard have reduced the need to go to markets and therefore reduced exposure to the virus, as well as providing a nutritious diet for households. It has been noted that the women participating in the programme have generated income that contributes to the family economy, which has been an important pillar to mitigate the effects of the restrictions derived from the pandemic.

Given the situation of COVID-19, the use of digital media (especially social networks and virtual programs) and remote work processes is a key tool for the effective continuity of the work plan, although it should be noted that only 40% of the participants have the conditions to access such media (type of cell phone and internet access). Among the participating agencies, the use of Information and Communication Technology -ICT- was strengthened since COVID-19, and enabled timely and efficient responses during the evolving situation.

The community savings and loans groups were critical in enabling beneficiaries to withstand the crisis, show resilience, and recover their business activities. Having a larger number and type of productive enterprises has allowed the beneficiaries to have other options to continue to be active in terms of marketing their products or even to readapt them.

Providing timely information on how COVID-19 spreads and what to do to prevent it has been effective. Through the provision of such awareness raising activities, the JP RWEE beneficiaries acted as multipliers, further disseminating the knowledge and information they gained at family and community levels. The

formation of volunteer promoters through training workshops to prepare their families and the community for the prevention and attention to the health crisis, establishing protocols based on human rights.

III. Qualitative assessment

Ongoing monitoring of the programme, along with the results achieved and outlined above, show that, despite the hardship suffered during 2020, women were still able to generate significant amounts of income, increase sales, and withstand the impact of the pandemic. Diversified income sources and the ability to adapt businesses was an excellent business survival strategy. It was also observed that women are now well versed as to their rights and have the confidence to approach the relevant institution to demand services. This was witnessed by savings groups lobbying authorities to be included during responses to the multiple crises. The pandemic also showed the importance of collaboration in dealing with crises, so recognizing local partners, both governmental and non-governmental, as well as the role of JP RWEE beneficiaries and community leaders, specifically women leaders, to coordinate and collaborate together to ensure the voices of rural women are heard and their needs are met. This included information awareness raising and provision of services.

As part of the JP RWEE monitoring and evaluation strategy, a gender-focused socioeconomic impact data collection instrument was developed within the framework of COVID-19. This instrument was reviewed by the agencies, which provided their input, as well as the establishment of the sample of the beneficiary population to be surveyed. The representative sample for the survey was 300 women from 60 communities. The tool will be scaled up and adapted in the future.

Changes in women's lives were also documented through the use of energy saving stoves and cisterns which have enabled women to spend less time collecting firewood, which they observed was both better for the environment and also reduced the health risk of continued exposure to direct fire and smoke.

The importance of developing the capacity of the volunteer promoters through training workshops to prepare their families and the community for the prevention and attention to the health crisis is highlighted, establishing protocols based on human rights.

During the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, there was greater inter-agency communication and smooth collaboration took place, ensuring that the programme adapted in a timely and flexible manner to the evolving situation. This was testimony to the effective partnership working that has been realised over time as a result of the four agencies working together.

ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:

	<u>Achieved</u> Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Outcome 1 Improved food and nutrition security			
<p>Indicator 1.1 Percentage of households that improve their food security according to the Latin American Scale and Caribbean Food Security (ELCSA)</p> <p>Baseline: 88% of households show a level of food insecurity by ELCSA metrics (1015 households)</p> <p>Planned target 28.3% of households show a level of food insecurity by ELCSA metrics.</p>	<p>The activities here were rephased to 2021 programming (will be held in conjunction with the WEAI)</p>	<p>The inaccessibility of project communities due to COVID-19 travel restrictions impacted the timely delivery of results. Thus, the planned targets were not met by the end of December 2020. These targets are expected to be reached in 2021.</p>	<p>Field trips, reports</p>
<p>Indicator 1.2 Percentage of women and their households that improve their nutrition according to the FCS (Food Consumption Score)</p> <p>Baseline: 80% households with acceptable status. (FCS²).</p> <p>Planned target 90% With acceptable status (FCS).</p>	<p>The activities here were rephased to 2021 programming (will be held in conjunction with the WEAI)</p>	<p>The inaccessibility of project communities due to COVID-19 travel restrictions impacted the timely delivery of results. Thus, the planned targets were not met by the end of December 2020. These targets are expected to be reached in 2021.</p>	<p>Field trips, reports</p>
<p>Indicator 1.3 Percentage increase in the production of corn and beans</p> <p>Baseline:</p>	<p>66.4% Increase in corn (2.19 MT/ha in corn) 39% Increase in Beans (1.07 MT/ha in beans)</p>	<p>With the training and the implementation of good agricultural practices, we have been able to increase more than planned.</p>	<p>Production's register</p>

² According to the FCS “the households food consumption status based on the following thresholds: 0-21: Poor, 21.5-35: Borderline, >35: Acceptable”

<p>0.45 TM/Ha production of corn and beans. Según estudio de Línea de Base del PC, según FAO 1.32 TM/Ha. en Maíz 0.77 TM/Ha. en Frijol</p> <p>Planned target 10% Increase in the production of corn and beans</p>			<p>Records, field trips, photographs</p>
<p>Output 1.1 Rural women have increased access to and control over resources, assets and services critical for their food and nutrition security</p>			
<p>1.1.1 Number of rural women utilizing improved production techniques Target: 956 Achieved: 857</p>	<p>Technical assistance and investments provided to women's groups to improve the production of pigs and chickens for consume and increase production of cassava, sweet potato and plantain, tilapia and vegetables and generate surpluses.</p>	<p>The inaccessibility of project communities due to COVID-19 impacted the timely delivery of results and resulted in a decrease in the planned number of beneficiaries.</p>	<p>Participation lists, reports</p>
<p>1.1.2 Number of rural women accessing innovative food processing plants Target: 2076 Achieved: 857</p>	<p>857 women from 34 groups have produced broiler chickens and pigs, and home gardens for self-consumption, thus improving animal protein consumption. (524 for self-consumption and 333 for commercialization).</p>	<p>The inaccessibility of project communities due to COVID-19 impacted the timely delivery of results and resulted in a decrease in the planned number of beneficiaries.</p>	<p>Participation lists, reports</p>
<p>1.1.3 Number of rural women utilizing improved production techniques Target: 50 Achieved: 49</p>	<p>49 women were trained and equipped with the necessary materials to establish their flour processing plants.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	
<p>1.1.4 Number of rural women utilizing improved production techniques Target: 468 Achieved: 857</p>	<p>124 women were trained in the use of macro-tunnels with their irrigation system for vegetable production and are using macro-tunnels, 49 are engaging in good agricultural practices to intensify the production of cassava, sweet potato and plantain for flour, 103 in egg production, 57 in tilapia production and 524 in food and nutritional security for the production of home gardens.</p>		<p>Programme reports</p>

1.1.5 Number of rural women accessing integrated services Target: 80 Achieved: 57	57 women provided with materials and trained in good practices for the production and marketing of tilapia.	Number reduced due to restrictions caused by COVID-19	Participation lists, reports
1.1.6 Number of rural women accessing integrated services Target: 2,076 Achieved: 2,499	2,499 women 1026 men participated in trainings on nutrition, health promotion, including sexual and reproductive health	N/A	Training reports
Outcome 2 Rural women have increased income to secure their livelihoods.			
Output 2.1 Rural women have enhanced entrepreneurship skills and value chains to access markets for their products			
2.1.1 Number of women that have strengthened their business skills Target: 2,300 Achieved: 1041	A total of \$123,544 was generated in gross income from associative sales and farm and backyard sales, in associative sales by 33 organizations with a total of 1,041 people (872 women and 169 men).	The inaccessibility of project communities due to COVID-19 impacted the timely delivery of results and resulted in a decrease in the planned number of beneficiaries.	Reports and participation lists
2.1.2 Number of rural women's cooperatives procuring agricultural products and home grown school meals through WFP programmes Target: 2300 Achieved: 1078	Technical assistance was provided to 29 agricultural and livestock enterprises and services for products such as: broiler chicken, eggs, pigs, nixtamal mills, corn shellers, oyster mushrooms, tilapia, tortillas, beans and a purification plant, with the participation of a total of 1,078 people (802 women and 276 men).	The inaccessibility of project communities due to COVID-19 impacted the timely delivery of results and resulted in a decrease in the planned number of beneficiaries.	Reports
2.1.3 Number of women that have strengthened their business skills Target: 1986 Achieved: 949	616 women accessed training sessions on marketing, quality control, product presentation and image, production costs, budgets, financial control of savings and community loans, sales and distribution of products. 333 rural women from 14 groups implemented productive activities for the commercialization of fish, eggs and vegetables, and follow up support was also carried out on the consolidation of the commercialization of cassava, sweet potato and plantain flour, as well as	The inaccessibility of project communities due to COVID-19 impacted the timely delivery of results and resulted in a decrease in the planned number of beneficiaries.	Programme reports and participation lists

	training in good manufacturing practices and business skills.		
2.1.4 Number of women with access to fair trade markets Target: 400 – 18 companies Achieved: 329	329 women from 25 women's groups supported for competitiveness and commercialization processes in agricultural and non-agricultural production chains.	Data reported through 2020, progress affected by pandemic, will advance data reported by 2021.	Reports
2.1.5 Number of companies that have adopted the Women's Empowerment Principles WEP Target: 50 Companies – 400 women Achieved: 35	As a result of the partnership with the private sector, (National Coalition for the Economic Empowerment of Women) applications for the adoption of WEPS have been submitted and 35 companies have adopted them.	The inaccessibility of project communities due to COVID-19 impacted the timely delivery of results and resulted in a decrease in the planned number of companies reached.	Reports
2.1.6 Number of rural women's cooperatives providing paid ecological services Target: 100 solar panels – benefitting 700 persons Achieved: 100 solar panels – benefitting 700 persons	100 women's homes benefited (with 700 people) from solar panels and 100 women were trained in the use of renewable energy.		Resources procured, participation and reports
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 participate in local governance			
3.1.1 Number of rural women who have strengthened their capacities to advocate and manage Development Councils Target: 310 local officials Achieved: 87	Support was provided to the directors of the municipal women's offices to provide training to women leaders in the municipality on the topics of women's participation at the community level, the importance of their participation in the COCODES, self-esteem, economic autonomy and women's human rights; 87 women in the three municipalities participated in this training process.	The inaccessibility of project communities due to COVID-19 impacted the timely delivery of results and resulted in a decrease in the planned number of beneficiaries.	Participation lists, reports
3.1.2 Number of rural women who have strengthened their capacities to advocate and manage Development Councils	A total of 305 people (120 members of the Community Development Councils - COCODES- and 185 women) in the three municipalities strengthened their	The inaccessibility of project communities due to COVID-19 impacted the timely delivery of results and resulted in a decrease in the planned number of beneficiaries.	Participation list, reports

<p>Planned target: 5 conventions (3 conventions for rural women, and 2 for members of the Development Councils) (400 women and 300 local authorities)</p>	<p>knowledge regarding the importance of women's participation in these structures.</p>		
<p>Output 3.4: Rural women, including young women have enhanced awareness on their rights in a more supportive community/local environment.</p>			
<p>3.4.1 Number of women who know the mechanisms of participation and decision-making at community, district and national organizational level.</p> <p>Baseline: 221 rural women Planned target: 380 Achieved: 297</p>	<p>92 women participated in the GALS methodology systematization</p> <p>205 women are familiar with participation and decision-making mechanisms.</p>	<p>The inaccessibility of project communities due to COVID-19 impacted the timely delivery of results and resulted in a decrease in the planned number of beneficiaries.</p>	<p>Participation list</p>
<p>Outcome 4: A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women</p>			
<p>Output 4.1: Policy makers and parliamentarians have enhanced capacities to effectively mainstream gender into land, food, agriculture, nutrition and rural employment policies, laws and budgets.</p>			
<p>4.1.1 Extent to which national land, food, nutrition, agricultural and rural development policies and laws make provisions for gender equality and women's empowerment</p> <p>Target: 425 public officials</p>	<p>As a linkage strategy for women's organizations, JP RWEE coordinated with the Gender Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food -MAGA to ensure the inclusion of cooperatives in development plans.</p> <p>Activity 4.1.2 Carry out dialogues with new authorities of the sectoral institutions and local governments to present lessons learned, tools and implemented methodologies. Target: 3 Municipalities</p> <p>Implementation for such activities will be implemented in the first half of 2021.</p> <p>Activity 4.1.3 Conduct workshops for extensionists from the municipalities of Alta Verapaz and officials for the use of methodological guides to improve rural extension services. Target: 100</p>	<p>Due to the COVID19, it has not been possible to work with public officials. Execution reports will be available for the following period.</p>	<p>Reports and participation lists</p>

	<p>Implementation for such activities will be implemented in the first half of 2021.</p> <p>Activity 4.1.4 Transfer the Community Savings and Credit Methodology. Target: 40</p> <p>Implementation for such activities will be implemented in the first half of 2021.</p> <p>Activity 4.1.5 Technical assistance to the interinstitutional articulation of the Gender Units that are part of the “Technical Board for Rural Development with a Gender and People’s Approach”. Target: 13 Institutions</p> <p>Implementation for such activities will be implemented in the first half of 2021.</p>		
Output 4.2: Greater availability of tools and data to track progress in the economic empowerment of rural women			
4.2.1 Number of technical assistances tools for accelerating the empowerment of rural women. Target: 3 Municipalities	The GRAST tool will be implemented in the first half of 2021.	Due to the COVID19, it has not been possible to conduct the advisory services for the assessment tool. Execution reports will be available for the following period.	Programme report
Output 4.3: An enabling environment is promoted to reflect rural women’s priorities in regional policy processes.			
4.3.1 Number of regional dialogue mechanisms on agriculture, rural development and land that involve rural women’s groups Target: 1 dialogue mechanism	Event canceled due to pandemic	Due to COVID-19 it was not possible to conduct the event. The responsible agency, which must make the request for the use of the resource and justification of the activity.	Participation list and report

III Other Assessments

N/A

IV Resources

EXPENSES BUDGET SWEDEN FUNDS						
Category Reference	Expense Description	PUNO 1 FAO	PUNO 2 WFP / JOINT ACTION	PUNO 3 UNW	PUNO 4 IFAD	Total
1	Staff and other personnel costs	\$19,680	\$ 36,000		\$-	\$55,680
2	Supplies, Commodities, Materials	\$61,470	\$ 4,800	\$585	\$-	\$66,855
3	Equipment, Vehicles and Furniture including Depreciation	\$0	\$ 4,500	\$14,612	\$-	\$19,112
4	Contractual Services	\$0	\$ 27,600	\$116,570	\$94,595	\$238,765
5	Travel	\$1,898	\$ 1,800	\$637	\$-	\$4,335
6	Transfers and Grants Counterparts	\$48,374	\$ 126,000	\$-	\$-	\$174,374
7	General Operating and Other Direct Costs	\$17,020	\$ 5,862	\$25,239	\$-	\$48,121
8	Indirect Support Costs (cannot exceed 7%)	\$10,390	\$-	\$-	\$6,622	\$17,012
9	Total Received funds	\$977,688	\$1,652,292	\$1,307,774	\$250,500	\$4,188,254
10	Agency Earned Interest Income	\$5,227	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$5,227
11	Refunds	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$0
(Amounts in US\$ - Please do NOT use decimals)						