

ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARDS THE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF RURAL WOMEN

BI-ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 30 JUNE 2024

Programme Title & Project Number	Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme Title: Accelerating Progress Toward Economic Empowerment of Rural Women in Tanzania (<i>add country</i>) MPTF Office Project Reference Number: # 132320 	<p>Country: Tanzania Regions: Dodoma, Singida, Zanzibar (Unguja Kusini (South) and Unguja Kati (Central)) District: Chamwino vin Dodoma, Ikungi in Singida and Unguja Kusini in Zanzibar Villages: 17 villages in Chamwino, 5 in Ikungi, 13 in Unguja Kusini and Kati (35 villages in total)</p> <p>Programme beneficiaries: Direct beneficiaries: 8,000 (6,800 women, 1,200 men) Indirect beneficiaries: 32,000 (for 2024 and the total programme period)</p>
Participating Organization(s)	Implementing Partners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FAO, IFAD, UNWOMEN, WFP 	<p>National counterparts (government, private, NGOs & others) and other International Organizations</p> <p>Government Ministries- Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, Natural Resources and Livestock (Zanzibar), Ministry of Blue Economy (Zanzibar)</p> <p>Regional and Local Government Authorities: Chamwino District Council, Ikungi District Council and Unguja Kusini District Council</p> <p>Implementing partners (NGOs/CSOs): FARM Africa, Tanzania Women Chamber of Commerce (TWCC), Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA), Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE), Zanzibar Maisha Bora Foundation (ZMBF), Sundry Merchants</p>
Programme/Project Cost (US\$)	Programme Duration
<p>Total approved budget as per project document: USD5,000,000.00 for 5 years</p> <p>MPTF Contribution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>by Agency (if applicable)</i> FAO 189,860 IFAD 198,576 UN Women 198,076 WFP 257,618 <p>Agency Contribution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>by Agency (if applicable)</i> <p>Government Contribution (<i>if applicable</i>)</p> <p>Other Contributions (donors) (<i>if applicable</i>)</p> <p>TOTAL: USD 844,130</p>	<p>Overall Duration 5 YEARS</p> <p>Start Date (25/05/22)</p> <p>End Date (24/05/27)</p>
Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.	Report Submitted By
<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 – <i>if applicable please attach</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: dd.mm.yyyy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name: Christine Mendes Title: Deputy Country Director and OiC Participating Organization (Lead): WFP Email address: christine.mendes@wfp.org

NARRATIVE REPORT FORMAT

I. Summary

As of June 2024, the programme is on track, with 64% of interventions ongoing. Progress from January to June 2024 has notably improved food security and nutrition for rural women through enhanced access to climate-resilient agricultural resources and technologies. **Gender Champions** have raised awareness about women's land rights, reaching a total of 22,075 individuals, which represents a 16.1% increase since December 2023. **Mechanisation efforts** have connected 133 female farmers with advanced agricultural technologies, and another 133 women have received training in Good Agricultural Practices and Climate Smart Agriculture. In Zanzibar, seaweed farmers benefited from new training, while financial literacy initiatives empowered women to establish **Village Community Banking groups** and small businesses. Kitchen gardens and **Social Behavioural Change Communication (SBSCC) Interventions** have positively impacted household diets. The programme also supported **policy dialogues and clean cooking initiatives**, furthering women's empowerment. Challenges include the potential discontinuation of the sardine value chain in Zanzibar due to limited beneficiary involvement and funding constraints. Additionally, based on FAO recommendations, the programme is planning to adopt **Dimitra Clubs** for more effective community engagement.

II. Results

Outcome 1. Improved food security and nutrition for rural women and their households that contribute to equitable and sustainable food systems.

Output 1.1: Rural women have increased access to resources, assets and technologies critical for climate-resilient agricultural production, food security, and nutrition.

Overall, as of July, 8 out of 9 planned activities for output 1.1 were successfully implemented, including 2 carryover activities from 2023, all of which were completed in Q2. Over 7,000 women were reached through various activities, with the highest engagement recorded in activity 1.1.3, which focused on raising awareness of land rights and linking rural women with government resources to secure Certificates of Customary Rights of Occupancy (CCROs).

The programme's gender champions, trained in the SASA tool, engaged 3,081 individuals (1,714 women and 2,124 men) which represents about 16.1% of the 19,075 individuals trained in 2023. through community meetings and dialogues to raise awareness about gender-based violence prevention and improve women's access to productive resources. It has been observed that these efforts have led to increased acceptance of women's land rights as cited by the beneficiaries in programme sites that Certificate of Customary Right of Occupancy (CCROs) have been issued. As a direct extension of this awareness, Ikungi District Council has continued formalising land parcels for rural women and men beneficiaries. In Mng'ana village, through a customary land formalisation process, 267 CCROs were produced (235 for women and 32 joint spouse) in comparison to 204 CCROs formalized in 2023. These are set to be issued in 2024. Furthermore, the selection of villages in Ikungi and Chamwino District Councils for land rights awareness interventions complements the ongoing efforts. Awareness training and CCRO interventions, set to begin in August, will further support women in these districts.

Still on supporting women's access to productive resources and the technologies, the programme linked 133 female smallholder farmers with Hans Agriculture Machinery Ltd, providing access to advanced agricultural mechanisation technologies. These technologies, including precision planters, vegetable seeders, weeding machines, spreading machines, and threshing machines, reduce the workload for women and enhance agricultural productivity, efficiency, and sustainability. As a result, 109 female farmers procured individual planters, significantly reducing the labour-intensive task of row planting with hand hoes. Through a programme implementing partner leveraging their partnership with the supplier, these planters were purchased at a subsidised price of 175,000 Tanzania Shillings (TZS) equivalent to 65 US\$, compared to the usual price of 350,000 TZS (130 US\$), with additional technical support from Hans Agriculture Machinery Ltd on operating the machinery.

In conjunction with mechanisation, the programme facilitated access to improved sorghum seeds (Macia) for 66 farmers, comprising 16 youth males, 29 adult males, 6 youth females, and 15 adult females, from Mbamba Traders Enterprises (MTE) leading to an increase to 1,116 farmers from 1,050 farmers in 2023. This initiative, conducted through a contract farming modality, allowed farmers to receive a 50% loan on the seed cost, paying 50% upfront and agreeing to pay the remainder upon selling their harvest to Mbamba MTE, the designated buyer. Additionally, the programme identified two sorghum off-takers with the capacity to purchase 20,000 MT of produce, creating a market link for the farmers' produce. This initiative not only eased the financial burden on farmers, making critical resources more accessible, but also established a structured market link, thereby enhancing their ability to produce climate-resilient crops and improve food security.

As a result of increased awareness among smallholder farmers on post-harvest handling techniques and technologies due to programme interventions, increased demand for post-harvest handling materials (hermetic bags and threshers) was observed in the first half of 2024. In May 2024, a total demand of 789 hermetic bags was recorded from 446 JP RWEE beneficiaries (316 females and 130 males). This demand was submitted to service providers, including wholesale hermetic bag suppliers such as Pee Pee Tanzania Limited (PPTL) and Lafanga Enterprise, as well as agricultural retailers. Furthermore, through the efforts of extension officers, an additional demand for 256 hermetic bags from rural women was collected in June 2024. The total demand obtained of 702 is in addition to 352 hermetic bags demanded in 2023. Consequently, 200 bags were supplied to 44 rural women farmers at a favourable price of 4,000 TZS (1.49 US\$) per bag, significantly lower than the typical market price range of 5,000 (1.86 US\$) to 7,000 TZS (2.61 US\$) per bag. This reduction in cost was a result of the programme's partnership with suppliers. By securing this lower price, essential tools for preserving crop quality became more accessible to rural women farmers, thereby enhancing their ability to safeguard their harvests effectively.

Under this output, the programme also focused on the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices and improved food security and nutrition among the beneficiaries. The programme continued capacity strengthening efforts through training in Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), which has benefited small holder farmers, by imparting knowledge on climate-smart practices. Collaborating with service providers such as Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI)¹, Advanta², SeedCo Group³, and Zamseed, as well as programme-trained lead farmers, GAP training was enhanced by the establishment of demonstration plots. These plots showcased GAP and climate-smart practices, provided technical learning opportunities, and promoted nutrition-sensitive agriculture in Ikungi and Chamwino Districts. Specifically, 71 demonstration plots (30 in Ikungi and 41 in Chamwino) were established, covering a total of 59.5 acres.

¹ <https://www.tari.go.tz/>

² <https://www.advantaseeds.com/>

³ <https://seedcogroup.com/tz/vegetables/about-us/overview/>

These included 29 plots of sorghum, 12 plots of sunflowers, 25 plots of maize/quality nutritious corn, 4 plots of groundnuts, and 1 plot of beans. In comparison only 30 demonstration plots were established in 2023, specifically for sorghum.

The programme continued to improve productivity for nutritious or specific crops, **including Orange Fleshed Sweet Potatoes (OFSP)**, also through trainings on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Climate Smart Agriculture. The programme strengthened the capacities of government extension officers and selected lead farmers as trainers to enhance programme ownership and ensure a wider range of beneficiaries is reached. These training sessions, which covered topics and skills including **conservation farming and the use of drought-resilient seeds**, reached a total of 486 beneficiaries (414 females and 72 males) in 12 villages in Ikungi district and 8 villages in Chamwino. Women's groups were formed and supported with sunflower seeds, providing 3 women's groups with one acre each as a demonstration farm, and OFSP seeds, providing 5 women's groups with half an acre each, totalling 138 beneficiaries (136 females and 2 males).

In Zanzibar, the programme strengthened the capacities of 308 seaweed farmers (284 women and 24 men) through training on **sustainable seaweed farming practices**. This included theoretical and practical sessions on the Double-Made Loop System (DML) and the Tubular Net System, leading to the establishment of nine demonstration plots. Following the training, farmers reported better seed selection, which is critical, considering the increased market prices for high-quality seeds. The programme also introduced incentives such as dry racks for top-performing farmers, fostering greater engagement and ownership during programme interventions.

Output 1.2: Enhanced skills and capacities to increase food production, food quality and local food security reserves; reduce food losses and waste; and improve household diets.

Overall, no activities carried over from 2023. By June, only 4 of 9 planned activities had started due to delays by partners, especially in Zanzibar, and unfinished 2023 activities. Delayed activities, including training on complementary food preparation, small animals for dietary diversity, and postharvest management for sorghum, will be completed by a new partner, with selection finalizing by August 2024.

PUNOs collaborated to provide inputs and comments for the development of updated and user-friendly content for Post Harvest Handling and value addition pamphlets, particularly for the **sunflower value chain**. Based on this information, two leaflets will be produced: one focusing on farming, harvesting, and storage of sunflower, and the other on value addition of sunflower produce. These resources will further support the learning process beyond the initial training that have already been provided to smallholder farmers.

During this reporting period, the programme continued to support rural women in strengthening their capacity to increase food production. Specifically, the programme promoted the production of nutritious food varieties to increase dietary diversity at the household level as a key approach to addressing **micronutrient deficiencies**. As a result, 145 households as of June 2024 were reached with skills and inputs to establish kitchen gardens, promoting local vegetable varieties such as Chinese cabbage, amaranth, okra, and African nightshade. As of 2023, 221 households were reached with the same skills and inputs.

Through ongoing Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) interventions delivered by community health volunteers and nutrition promoters, alongside mass media sensitization, the programme has observed an increased willingness among beneficiaries to produce other nutritious varieties such as **orange-fleshed sweet potatoes**. The programme has facilitated linkages between beneficiaries and input

suppliers, aiding this transition as reported under output 1.1. Additionally, efforts to transform the behaviour of rural women in Zanzibar using SBC regarding the preparation and consumption of vegetables, which have been suboptimal, have begun to show positive results. These efforts will continue to be strengthened in the second half of the year.

Outcome 2: Rural women's income, decent work and economic autonomy increased to secure their livelihoods and build resilience.

Output 2.1: Rural women have enhanced capacities, skills and time for entrepreneurship and access to markets and value chains.

Overall, 6 out of 13 planned activities began implementation under Output 2.1, including 2 carryovers from 2023. One of these carryovers was completed during the reporting period. Over 1,341 beneficiaries were reached under this output, including 1,086 women. The maximum number of beneficiaries was reached through Activity 2.1.2, which focused on establishing mentoring services and an exchange programme between women's groups and women entrepreneurs.

A total of 168 women beneficiaries have improved their financial literacy and entrepreneurial skills as a result of programme interventions. Notably, 30 of these women successfully established and registered a Village Community Banking (VICOBA) group in addition to the 177 Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) identified in 2023. This increases the total number of women participating in VSLAs to 3,878, up from 3,848 in 2023. This group has accumulated savings, with some of these funds extended as loans to members, promoting financial independence and entrepreneurship.

Building on these improvements, the programme introduced a mentorship scheme involving 52 women from four women's groups in Chamwino, Dodoma region. In 2023, 173 women from 4 leadership networks were providing mentorship support to other women. Experienced mentors provided practical business skills, such as soap-making and batik production. For example, Somoe Hamis an experienced entrepreneur guided the Ushirikiano Group in establishing a soap-making business, preparing them for the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF). Joanitha Kaziganika's mentorship enhanced the batik products of the Winners Group, Kongwa Women Group, and Mvumi Mission Group, showcasing the impact of targeted skill development.

These enhanced skills and market readiness are complemented by **strategic market linkages**. In the first quarter of 2024, a market linkage plan was prepared to inform the best approach to link sorghum farmers to buyers, including the use of **the Business to Business (B2B) approach**. The programme implementation team, in collaboration with lead farmers and extension officers, forecasted a production volume of 1,300 MT of sorghum from RWEE farmers in Ikungi and Chamwino districts. This volume was intended for sale through buyers via B2B meetings organized by the programme. As of May 2024, this forecasted volume was communicated to commodity off-takers, including Mbamba MTE and Mbaya Enterprises from Singida, who agreed to purchase the actual volume.

Furthermore, the programme has facilitated women's access to broader markets by leveraging platforms such as International Women's Day. This event that was held in March, themed "**Invest in Women to Accelerate National Development and Social Welfare**," provided a significant opportunity for 967 women and 254 men to showcase and sell their products, share experiences, and network with potential customers including from Dodoma and Dar es Salaam.

In Zanzibar, efforts to link rural women to markets are progressing with plans to connect them to tourist hotels and restaurants. Discussions with the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Tourism and the Regional Commissioner from Kusini District focus on establishing formal business relationships with the hospitality sector are ongoing. A workshop scheduled for July will facilitate this dialogue.

Output 2.2 Increased access to decent work, including off-farm work, and social protection.

Overall, As of the end of June, both 2 planned activities contributing to Output 2.2 had started implementation, with none being carryovers from 2023. These activities included Activity 2.2.1, which focused on providing rural women with TVET to develop skills for new employment opportunities and linkages to economic empowerment. Implementation began by identifying potential women's groups to be supported under this output.

The programme finalized a needs assessment⁴ for 178 Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) in Chamwino and Unguja, evaluating various aspects such as **registration status, leadership capacity, and types and levels of income-generating activities**. The findings provided a foundation for designing tailored support packages for VSLA members, facilitating access to business and agricultural market opportunities. These support packages will target areas such as leadership training, financial literacy and management, formal registration processes, and the initiation of income-generating activities based on the interests and needs of VSLA members. This tailored support will be rolled out to selected VSLAs in the second half of the year.

To enhance the skills of rural women in off-farm activities, the programme has trained 118 women in various skills, including spice making, food processing, baking, tailoring, catering, hospitality, batik, and soap making. Following these training sessions, three groups were formed to facilitate ongoing learning, knowledge sharing, and networking. These groups are now actively engaged in economic activities such as catering, soap making, and batik production, creating 48 self-employment opportunities.

To further support women's participation in off-farm activities and improve the quality of their products, the programme has partnered with the Chamwino District to secure a building near Chamwino Ikulu. This space is being developed into a **communal processing centre**, providing necessary facilities and equipment for women to increase their participation in off-farm activities and produce higher-quality products that meet Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) guidelines.

Progress has also been made in addressing employment challenges for rural women. Four care workers, trained by the District Council in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender and Singida Folk Development College, have secured formal employment following the establishment of two childcare centres in Ikungi. These centres not only provide employment opportunities but also support women in the community by allowing them the flexibility to engage in economic activities. From the 2023 annual report, the care centres were established through the programmes policy and advocacy work around women's unpaid care work and the partnerships the programme leveraged with government (and private sector).

Output 2.3 Rural women have increased access to gender-responsive financial and business development services, ICTs, and other products and services.

⁴ The needs assessment aimed to assess the current registration status of VSLAs and identify the support needed and inform the strategies for facilitating registration process for VSLAs.

By end of June, 3 out of 4 planned activities under Output 2.3 had started implementation, including 2 carryovers from 2023, both of which were completed during the reporting period. A total of 453 participants were reached, including 448 women, out of the planned 2,400 beneficiaries for 2024. The maximum number of beneficiaries was covered under Activity 2.3.7, which focused on linking rural women's businesses to credit and other financial and business development services.

The programme utilized the findings from the needs assessment for Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) to deliver targeted support aimed at increasing the number of rural women with access to improved technologies and market access products. During this reporting period, the programme provided essential working tools, such as toolboxes and passbooks, to 10 VSLAs comprising approximately 200 women members. This initial support was supplemented by an orientation for VSLA members on the usage and operation of these tools. These tools are expected to **address record-keeping challenges** and enhance **accountability and transparency in managing funds** collected by VSLA members. The funds will initially be stored temporarily before being transferred to dedicated long-term storage, such as bank accounts. The programme plans to extend support to more VSLAs in the second half of the year, including additional tailored packages such as leadership training, financial literacy, and assistance in starting income-generating activities.

In parallel, the programme made progress through strategic partnerships with public and private financial institutions, including UTT Asset Management and Investor Services (UTT AMIS), National Microfinance Bank (NMB), Cooperative Rural Development Bank (CRDB) of Tanzania, and the National Social Security Fund (NSSF). These partnerships contributed to raising awareness among rural women and girls about gender-responsive financial services and products. The programme successfully reached 175 rural women and girls, with 140 reporting increased knowledge of available **financial products and services**. Consequently, 51 women enrolled in the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) to secure their future retirement. Additionally, 45 women opened Embeju accounts at CRDB Bank to support their entrepreneurial ventures, 48 women accessed Malkia accounts to engage more effectively with formal financial services, and 31 women started Jasiri accounts at NMB Bank, which are tailored to promote women's financial well-being.

Outcome 3 Rural women's voice and agency increased for full and equal participation and leadership in their households, communities, organizations, and governance systems.

Output 3.1: Rural women have increased skills and capacity to participate in local governance and decision-making structures.

In May 2024, ninety (90) women from eighteen wards in Chamwino District, Dodoma, participated in a leadership training held in Chamwino District Council. This training aimed to empower rural women and increase their representation in decision-making bodies. It was designed to address the current underrepresentation of women in leadership roles within the district, as noted that, out of the 36 wards in Chamwino, there is only one has a female councillor, and among 107 villages, only one village is led by a woman.

The training equipped women with skills for potential leadership roles in cooperatives, local governments, and at ward or district levels. It covered essential topics such as election preparation, the importance of women in leadership, overcoming campaign challenges including gender-based violence, and addressing harmful cultural practices that impede women's participation. Additionally, strategies for effective

election campaigning and media utilisation were discussed. The training has prepared these women to actively pursue and assume decision-making roles, particularly in the upcoming local government elections in October -November 2024 and the Tanzania General Election in 2025.

Despite Tanzania's progressive legal framework on land rights and governance, many women are often left out of community decision-making due to social and cultural norms that persist in some areas of the country. During this reporting period bilateral informative sessions were held in February-March, 2024 to introduce the concept. Following these information sessions, Ikungi and Chamwino District councils' responsible focal points had discussions on the best approach for the adoption of gender-sensitive village by-laws (community led adoption of village by laws) to ensure that the national provisions that support women's participation in land-related decision-making in principle is understood and effectively implemented in practice. In Zanzibar, progress is also evident with the ongoing review of land laws and the Ministry of Lands is in the final stages of preparing a concept note on this review, which is anticipated to be finalised in July.

At the household level, the programme piloted/rolled out the Gender Action Learning System (GALS) methodology with 120 participants, comprising 83 female and 37 male beneficiaries. This catalytic training aimed to enhance participants' awareness of gender and social relations, including understanding on the work burden women face in communities. The training utilised the GALS Gender Balance tool to achieve this objective. Post-training evaluations demonstrated acceptance, particularly among male participants, of the fact that work distribution between women and men in most households and communities is imbalanced. This recognition indicates prospects of a positive shift in understanding gender roles. The expected outcomes of the GALS methodology were evident during the training, creating enthusiasm among participants to share the knowledge gained with other community members.

As of June 2024, 6 of 8 planned activities under Output 3.1 had started, including one 2023 carryover that was completed. Pending are Activity 3.1.7, which is delayed pending service provider recruitment for women's leadership training, and Activity 3.1.5, involving exposure visits and GALS fairs, now scheduled for Quarter 4 but likely to be moved to Quarter 1 of 2025.

Outcome 4: Gender responsive legal frameworks, policies, and institutions strengthened to create an enabling environment for rural women to secure their livelihoods, rights and resilience.

Output 4.1: Capacities of policymakers and other relevant stakeholders enhanced to design, implement and track gender-responsive policies, strategies, legal frameworks, and budgets.

By June 2024, 4 of 5 planned activities under Output 4.1 had begun, with no carryovers from 2023. Activity 4.1.7, providing technical support for policy briefs on gender equity in seaweed value addition, reached 626 of the 700 planned beneficiaries. Activity 4.1.6, aimed at community dialogue platforms for improving gender equality in agrifood systems, did not start as scheduled.

Under this output, JP RWEE continued to make contributions to the policy landscape of Tanzania, including on **clean cooking energy**. This was facilitated through a series of dialogues that included the government, and development partners and review meetings focused on the clean cooking energy policy and strategy. At the 2024 Women's Clean Cooking Conference, in partnership with the Ministry of Energy and other development actors, the programme contributed to strategic discussions on clean cooking. The conference was graced by the presence of Hon. Dr. Philip Isdor Mpango, Vice President of Tanzania, focused on improving access to and affordability of clean cooking technologies for low-income women

entrepreneurs across the nation. During his speech, Vice President Mpango highlighted the commitment of the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Dr. Samia Suluhu as a Champion of the African Women Clean Cooking Support Programmes (AWCCSP), emphasizing the significance of clean cooking solutions in mitigating climate change and enhancing women's health.

The government has taken substantial steps by establishing the National Clean Cooking Committee and creating a Clean Cooking Basket Fund to support the adoption of these technologies. The conference also provided a crucial platform for Local Government Authorities (LGAs) to collaborate and drive local awareness and adoption of clean cooking solutions.

Leveraging a partnership with the Ministry of Energy, JP RWEE supported the addition of 114 rural women entrepreneurs from the JP RWEE regions to access clean cooking stoves donated by the Ministry. This is an addition to the 335 gas stoves distributed to women beneficiaries and the households in Zanzibar through a partnership between a JP RWEE and Oryx Energies Company Ltd in Zanzibar, as reported in the 2023 annual report. The women who received clean cooking stoves and participated in training sessions, positioning them as **community ambassadors for clean cooking initiatives**. This initiative is part of JP RWEE's ongoing efforts to reduce time poverty and boost economic productivity among women by promoting efficient cooking technologies.

At local government level, the Ikungi District Council has committed to incorporating clean cooking initiatives into its upcoming District Strategic Development Plan for 2024, as well as into the Medium-Term Expenditure Forecast for 2024 to 2025. This integration reflects a broader strategy to tackle economic, leadership, and caregiving disparities that affect women, thereby promoting gender equality and women's empowerment at the district level.

In February 2024, bilateral meetings were held with the Ministry of Land and Human Settlement and the Land Commission in Zanzibar to discuss land activity implementation. The Ministry is finalizing a concept note on the legal land framework review, expected to be shared with development partners by July 2024. JP RWEE plans to involve rural women in this review to set legal precedents and promote gender equality..

III. Describe any delays in implementation, challenges, lessons learned, successes

During the reporting cycle, some activities faced **delays**, including those related to raising awareness of land rights and securing Certificates of Customary Rights of Occupancy (CCROs). While awareness efforts reached thousands, linking rural women to CCROs fell short of targets. Delays in procuring technologies for seaweed farming, such as solar dryers and energy-saving stoves, are being addressed, with procurement expected to complete in the latter half of the year. Training on VSLA methodologies and policy brief development for SDG indicator 5.a.2 were also delayed due to beneficiary list verification issues.

The sardines value chain in Zanzibar is being reconsidered after a capacity needs assessment revealed minimal involvement (11 out of 700 farmers) and challenges in certain areas. It was decided to drop this subsector based on consultations with stakeholders.

In Central District-Zanzibar, household dynamics affected attendance at GALS Catalytic training, highlighting the need to address gender norms. Geographical constraints also impacted seaweed farming, with strong waves and rocky substrates making tubular farming impractical and increasing seed costs. Reliance on the less preferred *Spinsum* variety is a consequence of insufficient *Cottonii* seeds.

Lastly, changes in WFP’s implementing partners led to delays and reduced coverage of some activities, including postharvest management training, initially planned for the second quarter.

Several are the **success** registered. Enhancing Rural Women’s Access to Productive Inputs: Under Outcome 1, the program successfully linked rural women to productive inputs such as seeds, mechanization, and postharvest storage facilities. Notably, there has been an 8.7% increase in the adoption of improved postharvest handling and storage practices by rural women, surpassing baseline figures.

Boosting Financial Confidence and Economic Autonomy: The program has significantly improved rural women’s economic autonomy. Feedback from VICOBA group members reflects increased financial confidence and independence. Skills training in soap-making and batik has opened new self-employment opportunities, with positive responses noted at trade fairs. Additionally, the provision of tools and training for VSLA members has enhanced their financial management skills and access to services, fostering empowerment and resilience.

Advancing Women’s Care Work and Clean Cooking Policy: Under Outcome 4, the program has made notable contributions to the policy landscape regarding women’s unpaid care and domestic work. Through a series of strategic dialogues and review meetings, including participation in the 2024 Women’s Clean Cooking Conference with the Ministry of Energy and other partners, the program has played a key role in shaping discussions on clean cooking energy policies and strategies.

IV. Insert the completed Performance Indicator Table

No change at output and outcome level. Outcome and output monitoring is performed at the end of the planning year.