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**“ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARD THE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN”
ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT
REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2017**

Programme Title & Project Number	Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Participants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme Title: Accelerating Progress Toward Economic Empowerment of Rural Women in <i>Rwanda</i> • MPTF Office Project Reference Number:¹ 00092006 	<p>Rwanda (Kirehe, Ngoma and Nyaruguru districts)</p> <p>The strategic result of RWEE is to secure rural women’s livelihoods and rights in the context of sustainable development and the SDGs.</p> <p>1260 participants for the year 2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct: 1,260 (1027 women & 233 Men) • Indirect: 5,418 (2,817 Women and 2,601 Men) <p>Number of participants from the beginning of the Joint Programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct: 17, 363 (9,625 women, 7,738 men). • Indirect: 83,342 (43,338 women, 40,004 men)
Participating Organization(s)	Implementing Partners

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

- FAO, IFAD, WFP, UN Women

- Ministry of Agriculture & Animal Resource (MINAGRI)
- IMBUTO Foundation
- INADES Formation Rwanda
- SAFE
- YWCA
- District and Sector Agriculture officers
- District and Sector Cooperative Officers
- Rwanda Cooperative Agency (RCA)

Programme/Project Cost (US\$)

Total approved budget as per project document: **US\$ 5,000,000**

MPTF Contribution: US\$400,000

- *by Agency*
- FAO US\$ 89,773
- IFAD US\$ 89,773
- WFP US\$ 130,681
- UN Women US\$ 89,773

Agency Contribution

- **FAO Core Contribution : USD** 20,682.23
- **IFAD RWEE Contribution: 0 USD**
- **WFP RWEE Contribution: 0**
- **UN Women Core Contribution: USD** 24,639.59.

TOTAL CORE: 45,321.82

TOTAL: JP RWEE Exp. SIDA(193,069)

+ Core (45,321.82) = 238,390.82

Programme Duration

Overall Duration: 5 Years

Start Date (*15 10 2012*)

Original end date (*14 10 2017*)

Current end date: 30 12 2018

Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Evaluation.

Assessment/Review - if applicable (*please attach*)

Yes No Date: **30.02.2017 and 15/12/2017**

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

Yes No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy*

A Situation analysis report by INADES Formation (IP)

Report Submitted By

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AGROTECH	Agriculture Technologies
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of the Discrimination against Women
EDPRS	Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GALS	Gender Action Learning System
GMO	Gender Monitoring Office
IPAR	Institute of Policy Analysis and Research
JADF	Joint Action Development Forum
JP	Joint Program
KCB	Kenya Commercial Bank
MINECOFIN	Ministry of
MINAGRI	Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources
MFI	Micro Finance Institutions
NAP	National Agriculture Policy
NAEB	National Agriculture Export Board
NST	National Strategy for Transformation
PHH	Post-Harvest Handling
PSTA	Strategic Plan for the Transformation of Agriculture
RAB	Rwanda Agriculture Board
Rwf	Rwandan Francs
SACCO	Savings and Credit Cooperative
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
ToT	Training of Trainers
WEAI	Women Empowerment Agriculture Index
VSLA	Voluntary Savings and Loans Approach

NARRATIVE REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

Following the WFO HQ support mission to Rwanda, it was recommended to work more jointly and to concentrate the efforts on the beneficiaries groups that were assessed as most vulnerable and recently created. Those beneficiaries are organized into groups and cooperatives (10 in total) and were selected based on a joint assessment of the beneficiary groups (*Twitezimbere Kiyonza, COTECO, Abahangudushya, Bimpinduka, Urumuri, Terimbere Mugore wa Sake, Duhuzimbaraga Murama, Kubinya and Abaticymygambi*) in consultation with the government of Rwanda through the Ministry of Agriculture (MINAGRI). The districts were reduced to three namely; Kirehe, Ngoma in Eastern Province and Nyaruguru in Southern Province and in 7 sectors of Ngoma, Nyagisozi and Cyahinda in Nyaruguru district, Murama and Sake in Ngoma district, Nyamugari and Kirehe sectors in Kirehe districts. The criteria for selection of the three districts were: the vulnerability of people and the presence of UN agencies in the area. Most of the groups who had already been targeted by the JPRWEE and were not selected for this new phase 1 were for example cooperatives that had been supported since a long time by UN or other development partners, and which had relatively high capacity to meet their basic needs such as food for their families. Seven out of ten groups kept were created from the beginning of JP RWEE. Ongoing activities that needed to be consolidated were taken into account based on the districts' status in regards to poverty levels, food security and nutrition indicators

This Annual report covers the period from January to December 2017 and provides the program progress to-date in terms of achievements and results including success stories and major changes that have happened among rural women as a result of the JPRWEE.

The major achievements for the period under review were as follows:

- Capacity building of rural women: 125 women were trained in kitchen gardening, leading to improved beneficiaries households feeding on vegetables such as spinach, onions, tomatoes, cabbages and carrots².
- Purchase and the distribution of seedlings (fruit trees) in collaboration with program participants and the implementing partners: 2545 fruit seedlings (avocados and mangoes) of which 2060 in Nyaruguru district, 282 in Kirehe district and 203 in Ngoma district have been planted. Each RWEE beneficiary 1260 (1027 women and 233 men) benefited from the fruit trees. About 25 fruit trees were given the local leaders who came to support the distribution activity.

² Data on the impact on food security and nutrition will be collected in 2018.

- Distribution of farm inputs including: fortified bean seeds, hoes, wheelbarrows and harvesting bags to rural women cooperatives from 9 farmer groups composed of 1327 members (1088 women and 240 men). This led to enhanced production capacity and improved nutrition for 1327 participants in the 3 districts of Ngoma, Kirehe and Nyaruguru including some local leaders who turned up to support the activities. This has enabled them to acquire the production resources necessary for their food and nutritional security as confirmed by testimonies of beneficiaries of Nyaruguru and Kirehe during the field visits in August 2017. About 80% of those who received inputs and seedlings increased their harvest by 50% on average³. Inputs were given for common production in March and April 2017⁴.
- Two greenhouses for two cooperatives (Terimbere Ngeruka Cooperative based in Bugesera District and Cyimbazi Munyiginya Cooperative in Rwamagana District) were repaired during the year, these were under the project support area in the previous phase. The repaired greenhouses allowed 45 cooperative members (33 women and 12 men) to engage in a more effective production of tomatoes and contributed to improved production and income for the cooperatives members and also benefitted the livelihood of their 201 family members. It should be noted that these cooperative members had been supported under JPRWEE in the previous phase and due to damages on their greenhouse, the production was stopped and the aim of this facilitation was to help them to produce vegetables again
- Training of trainers was also organized on construction techniques of rainwater tanks from roofs of houses. 20 trainers among which 8 women (40%) and 12 men (60%) have gained knowledge in construction techniques for rainwater tanks from roofs of houses (3 model rainwater tanks used as learning tools are already built and collect rain water)
- Three farmers groups with a total of 323 (211 women and 112 men) active in greenhouse farming had 30 direct beneficiaries, among them (23 women and 7 men) trained in tomato processing techniques (as ToT) and learned to produce tomato jam and ketchup. The trained members are expected to train their group members (293 members – 188 women and 105 men) in return but in a less formal way although the program management will monitor this transfer of knowledge and skills next year between January and June 2018. The groups have distributed samples for free testing while waiting to acquire quality standards certification from Rwanda Standard Board (RSB). The process of application for the certificate is yet to start. Feedback on the quality of ketchup and jam is being collected by the farmers to inform their future processing plans.
- A ToT was conducted for 12 Implementing Partners (IPs) staff on Post Harvest Handling and Storage (PHHS) approach of WFP; as a result, the IPs trained 979 farmers including 803 women and 176 men on Post Harvest Handling and Storage with an aim of providing them with the PHH materials including tarpaulins and harvesting bags, in the next quarter.

³ These are estimates based on observations and probing of beneficiaries during the field visits,

⁴ Tangible data on increased production and improved nutrition shall be collected in the planned assessment of May 2018.

- To support farmers' financial inclusion, 1,133 members of the ten farmer groups (906 women and 227 men) were trained on access to finance and business planning based on the Village Savings and Loan Approach (VSLA). As a direct impact of the training on access to finance through VSLAs and business planning, 50 VSL groups have been formed (40 groups Nyaruguru District, 6 in Kirehe District and 4 in Ngoma District). A majority of project participants have already starting saving an average of RWF 1,000 to 5,000 per week (USD 1.20 to USD 5.95 per week). It is important to note that the VSLA groups were only launched in November 2017⁵;
- The 12th National Agri-show was held in June 2017 at Mulindi Showground, in Gasabo District, under the theme "*Adopt climate resilient technologies to improve farmer's livelihoods*". The JPRWEE supported 50 farmers (10 men and 40 women) to participate; it was an opportunity to showcase their produce but also to share and learn experiences from other participants with an aim of replicating good practices in their cooperatives.
- In February 2017, Knowledge sharing between the new 119 champions (73 rural women and 46 men) and the old 160 champions (94 Women and 66 Men) trained in 2016 on Gender Action Learning (GALS) was facilitated through a joint study tour in Rubavu district. The objective was to allow the new champions to learn from the experience of champions who started to use GALS (between 2012 and 2016) and sharing how it works in different context (different districts, sectors, backgrounds etc), so as to form a GALS knowledge sharing network that will support sustainability of RWEE results in this particular program area. The idea was also to help different organizations and non-program beneficiaries that wish to implement GALS to learn how these can be facilitated. In 2017 it was decided that GALS should be introduced into all groups benefiting from the JPRWEE with an aim of supporting jointness and sustainability of RWEE results specifically output 2 under outcome 3 on *Rural women, including young women have enhanced confidence and leadership skills to participate in local governance*.
- An open day was organized in February 2017 in Nyaruguru district as an opportunity for participants to showcase their achievements including; agriculture products, savings and credit, and different Income generating activities started, among others. This was done through presentations, display of different products and activities as well as storytelling by 1 man and 10 women through a sketch in the presence of different partners including; district, sector and cells authorities, Rwanda Agriculture Board, Faith Based Organizations, security services, representatives from FAO, UN Women, IFAD, WFP, INADES Formation Rwanda and the cooperative members under JPRWEE, at least 2 people from each organization participated. This reinforced self-confidence of the participants at individual level and cooperatives level.
- With support from the JPRWEE, two rural women from Southern and Eastern Province participated in the International Rural Women Day dialogue in New York via Skype, held in (add date). The two women were able to share their experience with the conference participants in NY and were comfortable to participate in the discussion with other rural women from other countries. The participation was also very motivating and gave exposure for the two women.

⁵ An assessment of the exact number of persons who have started saving, as well as the total amounts saved and total value of loans taken out, will be conducted in May 2018.

- A policy dialogue on the National Agriculture Policy (NAP) and its nexus with gender equality was organized by FAO, UN Women and the Parliament of Rwanda in November 2017. The objective was to develop an agriculture policy that reflects views from different stakeholders and addresses challenges faced by the agriculture sector in the country, such as effective gender mainstreaming into agricultural policies and programs and modern agriculture methods. More than 80 Members of parliament, especially those who sit on the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Environment, MINAGRI and MINECOFIN ministers, the Gender Monitoring Office (GMO) Chief Gender Monitor, UN representatives from Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the Institute of Policy Analysis and Research (IPAR-Rwanda) and other stakeholders participated in the dialogue. Key results from the policy dialogue were: the finalization of the Country Gender Assessment,, better understanding of aligning agriculture strategy (PSTA 4) and gender policies, excellent knowledge of regional and international frameworks on agriculture and gender equality. The Minister of Agriculture further brought the policy dialogue recommendations to the Agriculture sector working group of December 2017 for more ownership and implementation⁶.
- The recruitment of the national coordinator was completed in June; she started working in July 2017 and currently doing oversight and coordination of the program activities.
- The revision of the RWEE M&E Framework to include baseline values and improve indicators was done in February 2017.

⁶ A detailed report on the policy dialogue has been shared for more details and recommendations of the dialogue

INRODUCTION

I. Purpose

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

The expected outcomes of the Joint Programme are:

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

Outcome 2: Rural women's increased income to sustain their livelihoods which focuses on creating, supporting and developing rural women-led enterprises, supporting women's role along value chains, enhancing their income opportunities and promoting their linkages to high value markets. It supports women-led associations and small scale businesses in overcoming their supply side constraints so that they can take full advantage of opportunities offered by the market

Outcome 3: Rural women's enhanced leadership and participation in rural institutions and in shaping laws, policies and programmes which promotes their agency in rural producer organizations, cooperatives and unions and in local governance. Actions under this outcome area also strengthen rural women's voice and influence in key policy processes. This outcome promotes rural women's participation and leadership in rural producer organizations and local governance systems.

Outcome 4: More gender responsive policy environment for the economic empowerment of rural women; this influences legislative and policy reforms for the effective enforcement of rural women's land rights and their access to decent wage employment, social protection, and infrastructure. It involves advocating with Rwanda governments, parliaments and other relevant stakeholders to deliver greater development outcomes to rural women, including in the framework of Rio +20 and Post MDG.

The RWEE country implementation plan has been formulated based on the local context, in partnership with the stakeholders and in line with the government's priorities. The Government of Rwanda has demonstrated that, in order to fast track the achievement of its vision 2020 and the SDGs, both women and men must equally participate in, and benefit from development processes (Vision 2020; EDPRS, 2013-2018). In this context agriculture is viewed as an important foundation for development, as reflected in the mid-term review of the vision, which raised the target growth rate of the agricultural sector to 8.5% per annum. Agriculture is one of the six pillars of Vision 2020 with a goal of developing productive high value and market oriented products. National Laws, policies and institutional mechanisms have been implemented to promote Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment including the National Gender Policy and the Agriculture Gender Strategy that seeks to institutionalize gender equality in the agriculture sector, the Law

on Prevention and Punishment of GBV (2008), the ISANGE One Stop centers program that respond to GBV under one roof, so far 28 centers have been established.

The joint programme contributes to the UNDAP Outcome 1.2: Rwandans able to tap into and benefit from expanded international, regional and local markets, and improved agriculture value chain, and more specifically to UNDAP Output 1.2.1. Strengthened agricultural innovation and value chains. The program contributes also to SDG 1 and 5.

II. Results

This section provides the major results that have been achieved over the reporting period and changes that have taken place. It comprises of three parts; i. Narrative section; ii. Indicator based performance assessment; and iii. Three stories captured from the RWEE participants. The information provided covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2017

i) Narrative reporting on results:

The Joint Programme on Rural Women Economic Empowerment in Rwanda achieved the following key results in 2017:

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

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

The JP RWEE provided fruit seedlings to the program participants across the three district. In total, 1260 (1,027 women and 233 men) beneficiaries (1146 households) received (2060 avocados in Nyaruguru and 500 mangoes in Kirehe and Ngoma). Each participant received 2 plants. Each cooperative received plants to be planted in their kitchen garden. It should be noted that these fruit trees were not yet mature to provide any fruits by December 31 2017, their nutritional value and contribution to dietary and consumption pattern of the beneficiaries' is only expected in the near future.⁷

⁷ Both the fruit trees and Kitchen gardens distributed and established respectively this year are yet to provide results hence no concrete data is available, however there is information from the field that vegetables should be harvested in the coming weeks (Beyond December). There is also information on the nutrition value of Bio- fortified beans harvested in June and July used for both food and porridge



Photo 1: JP RWEE Cooperative members receiving fruit tree seedlings in Ngoma district. 2292 fruits seedlings were distributed to 1146 households (1260 beneficiaries)

Training was organized before distribution on how to plant correctly and the importance of these plants in terms of nutrition and income was explained to all participants.

Training of trainers was also organized on construction techniques of rainwater tanks from roofs of houses. 20 trainers among which 8 women (40%) and 12 men (60%) have gained knowledge in construction techniques for rainwater tanks from roofs of houses (3 model rainwater tanks used as learning tools are already built and collect rain water).

The JPRWEE target groups were capacitated to construct water tanks for use in agricultural activities, domestic use, and animal breeding. (20 ToT including 8 women and 12 men) and 350 program participants were provided with basic equipment (iron sheets, water holders sheets and nails) of which 93 (27%) were men and 257 women (73%) all committed to have built rain water tanks over the coming period (2018). This increased ownership made participants aware of the need to provide the rest of the necessary material on their own, such as bricks, wood, and labour used for construction.



Photo 2: JP RWEE Participants after receiving materials for the construction of water tanks from the RWEE Implementing Partners and FAO

Training of trainers on compost manufacturing techniques: 79 persons of which 33 men and 46 women (58 %) have acquired compost manufacturing techniques. The plan is to train 136 ToTs (56 men and 80 women) by April 2018, these shall train the rest of the group members in their respective cooperatives in the next quarter of the program, 1124 (177 men and 947 women) members shall be trained later by the ToTs.

The project has enhanced the production capacities of 1327 participants (1088 women and 240 men) by providing them with necessary inputs and tools including 1545 hoes, 7500 kgs of bio fortified bean seeds, 1545 pickaxes, 3090 handles, 45 watering cans, , bags for storage and 10750 kgs of DAP fertilizers, among others. These inputs have enabled rural women farmers and cooperatives to improve their production resources necessary for their food and nutrition security since about 80% of those who received inputs and seedlings increased their harvest by 50% on average according to observations and testimonies from some of the farmers on the field⁸. At the end of the season (harvest period), the bio fortified beans were disseminated in the community by either selling or donations to the neighbors and family members. The project made it possible to introduce varieties rich in vitamin A, which greatly contribute to the reduction of malnutrition. During the field visits by JPRWEE technical working group, members who harvested the fortified beans explained that they are a source of very notorious porridge for both children and adults and those families were already feeding on the bean porridge hence improving their meals per day from only two to three since they could afford breakfast. This was a new variety of beans promoted by the Rwanda Agriculture Board for Nutrition purposes.

The 1327 participants (1088 women and 240 men) from Kirehe, Ngoma, and Nyaruguru districts who received hoes, pickaxes, bio fortified beans and fertilizers as indicated above confirmed that the inputs contributed to their production capacity and increased food for their households. Participants who received fortified beans have been able to harvest dry beans between 50kg to 100kgs of beans from just 5kgs of bean seeds after feeding their families with fresh beans (non dry beans from the garden). Beans are a very important traditional food rich in proteins hence participants improved food value for their families as they were able to sell some beans⁹ and buy other types food such as maize, potatoes and bananas and were able to keep bean seeds for the next season. Concrete data on increase in production and improved nutrition shall be collected in the planned assessment of May 2018.

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

Provision of vegetable seeds and training on kitchen garden establishment

Provision of seeds to ¹⁰40 beneficiaries (30 women and 10 men) in Kirehe district has been done. Twenty (20) beneficiaries from Tugaruke mu nzira group of Gatore Sector and 20 beneficiaries from Abaticumugambi of Nyamugali Sectors were given vegetable seeds (20 gr per type per person). They have made nursery sites where seeds of green paper, cabbages, carrot, beetroots and onions were grown.

⁸ This information is from monitoring field visits done randomly and qualitative information collected, there was no sample size planned, the figures are mere estimates based on members met on the field

⁹ Most farmers are illiterate hence don't keep these records, only estimates were provided during field visits, however trainings have been planned in record keeping and cooperative management in 2018

¹⁰ This number was only planned and done as a demonstration i.e model kitchen gardens with the aim of distributing to others later, the re-distribution is planned later in 2018

Beneficiaries shall be facilitated in the transplanting process (seedlings from nursery sites to their own kitchen garden). This activity had not been planned initially but was later found necessary to a few model members who will train other members in their groups and share seedlings.

During the reporting period, 125 women were trained on kitchen garden establishment and management. The following types of kitchen gardens were covered:

- ✓ Kitchen garden in terrace
- ✓ Sunken bed
- ✓ Double dug bed
- ✓ Mandala garden
- ✓ Heap garden and container garden

The established kitchen gardens are made of local materials like banana leaves, agave leaves, eragrostis and small stones. Different types of vegetables such as carrots and beatrudes were sown directly as a training demonstration and participants have been trained on advantages of mulching, as kitchen gardens must be able to yield all year long. The training was done using the Farmer Field School approach; 10 FFSs were created and followed by the establishment of individual kitchen gardens at home. Kitchen gardens are a source of food especially vegetables that could improve food nutrition of the households of the 125 women and no men (0) that benefited, Sensitization and mobilization of members is done by IPs and the program team on an ongoing basis to ensure increased uptake of a balanced diet for families.



Photo 3: Active participation in kitchen garden establishment at Nyarubaka and Musambira sector of Kamonyi district using FFS approach

Training of INADES Formation staff (ToT) on PHHS

To improve the capacity of IP (Implementing Partner) staff in Post-Harvest Handling and Storage (PHHS) practices, a one-day training of trainers' session on PHHS was conducted at INADES Office in Remera. Purchase for Progress (P4P) staff at WFP trained 12 INADES staff, who were planned to train RWEE farmers and distribute PHHS equipment to the 10 targeted cooperatives/ farmer groups. During the training, the participants could articulate and discuss on topics such as; New harvest, Grain quality, threshing and cleaning, drying grain and grain storage as well as post-harvest management.



Photo 8: A Trainee demonstrating his understanding during the PHHS Training of INADES staff at their office in Remera

Training of RWEE farmers on PHHS

The total number of farmers trained on Post-Harvest Handling and Storage was 979 farmers including 803 women and 176 men, 765 farmers were from Nyaruguru district, 94 from Ngoma district and 117 from Kirehe district. The training was very interactive; farmers participated in giving ideas as most of the concepts discussed were familiar to them. The Participant's feedback was that they gained new insight because of the training, especially on the presence of aflatoxin in the grain that are not properly handled and moisture content measurement for grains. The farmers committed themselves to use the skills got to improve the quality and quantity of maize, beans and other grains they grow. The training was aimed at enabling to store food and solve the issue of food shortage they often face two month before the harvest. According to the framers trained, the food shortage is usually caused by the loss of harvest due to poor post-harvest practices and the immediate sale of the produce after harvest due to lack of appropriate storage equipment. Farmers shall be provided with storage materials such as hermetic storage in the next quarter, to allow them increase their bargaining power over price, as they won't be frightened by their grains getting spoiled due to insect attack. The materials are also expected to reduce post-harvest losses which have been estimated to 25% of the harvest and this will contribute to increased income for households participating in the joint program.



Photo 9: INADES Trainers facilitating a PHH training sessions in Ngoma and Nyaruguru districts

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

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

In the reporting year, rural women continued to enhance their capacity to access agriculture value chains and markets by engaging in greenhouse farming and new product processing techniques. The greenhouses of two cooperatives (Terimbere Ngeruka Cooperative based in Bugesera District and Cyimbazi Munyiginya Cooperative in Rwamagana District) were successfully repaired, allowing the 45 cooperative members (33 women and 12 men) to engage in a more effective production of tomatoes. It should be noted that these two cooperatives are the only ones that had the need to repair their greenhouses and are no longer beneficiaries of JP RWEE although this activity was accomplished in the reporting period. The tomatoes are not only produced for subsistence farming but are also sold on local markets to generate some income. Data collected in 2016/2017 from other Rwandan farmer groups active in greenhouse farming¹¹ revealed that the income of at least 50 percent of cooperative members significantly increased through greenhouse farming whereby 50% of the 785 interviewed cooperative members (644 women and 141 men) indicated that their yearly revenue increased by more than 50 percent compared to before the uptake of greenhouse farming. Thus, the reparation of the greenhouses is expected to contribute to an increased income for the 45 cooperatives members and also benefit the livelihood of their 201 family members. An assessment to confirm these findings is planned in May 2018

Farmer groups that were supported under previous JPRWEE phases continued to receive technical advice on greenhouse management. These notably concern the Terimbere Mugore Wa Sake (Ngoma District), Kubinya (Kirehe District) and Terimbere Kiyonza (Nyaruguru District) farmer groups, counting a total of 340 members, among which are 245 women and 95 men. Although not planned for this phase, 20 members

¹¹ These are not JP RWEE beneficiaries. This is comparison to other farmers with similar initiatives, data was collected through exchange. A study tour is planned in quarter two of next year to other more experienced farmers in Green house farming. And data on income from JPRWEE beneficiaries shall be collected at the end on the current phase.

(12 women and 8 men) of the Bimpinduka Cooperative (Nyaruguru District) had experienced some difficulties in effectively utilizing the greenhouse farming, management and marketing, hence benefited from a separate refresher course during the current program phase bringing the total to 360 members (257 women, 103 men).

Furthermore, building on the successful uptake of greenhouse tomato production techniques, in partnership with the Rwandan National Agriculture and Export Development Board (NAEB), 30 participants (23 women and 7 men) were trained as ToTs on tomato processing techniques. These members from three farmer groups learned how to produce tomato jam, apple and pepper ketchup. These 30 trained members are supposed to train their colleagues, as a result, cooperatives will be able to sell their transformed produce at a higher price, thus accessing new markets and increasing the income gained from their activities.

It is important to note that under the current JP RWEE program phase, only 4 out of the 10 farmer groups who directly benefit from the program operate a greenhouse. The setup of the greenhouse for 4 of these groups was directly supported under JPRWEE during the previous program phase, JPRWEE. Under the current program phase, funds were insufficient to construct more greenhouses for more farmer groups. Therefore, efforts were strategically concentrated on enhancing the greenhouse management/vegetable processing capacities of beneficiaries already active in greenhouse farming. As a consequence, only 4 farmer groups have been eligible to benefit from these trainings. The trainings are directly delivered to key members in the cooperative, who then share the acquired knowledge with other members.



Photo 4: Rural women learn about tomato processing for the production of ketchup and jam. © Imbuto Foundation, 2017

As revealed by in-depth interviews with members of the 10 farmers groups¹² (1260 members-1,027 women and 233 men) supported under the current phase of the RWEE joint program, less than one third of group members have access to bank loans to support investments into advanced agricultural techniques or an uptake of business activities. To support farmers' financial inclusion, 1,133 members of the ten farmer groups (906 women and 227 men) were trained on access to finance and business planning based on the

¹² For each of the 10 farmer women groups/cooperatives, 15 persons were interviewed. These included the group/cooperative President, Vice-President, and Secretary/Treasurer, 2 advisors, 3 auditors, 2 trained facilitators and 5 regular members. In total, 150 people have been interviewed (109 women and 41 men). Every interview took 30 minutes on average.

Voluntary Savings and Loan Approach (VSLA). 50 VSL groups have been formed (40 groups Nyaruguru District, 6 in Kirehe District and 4 in Ngoma District). Majority of project participants have already started saving an average of RWF 1,000 to 5,000 per week (USD 1.20 to USD 5.95 per week). The trainings and establishment of VSLAs were only done in November 2017, and corresponding data on impact shall be collected in May 2018. The initially observed uptake of this saving approach among group members is however very high and may potentially improve the current access to finance status.



Photo 5: Left, Women during the VSLA meeting, during the meetings, they share knowledge, mobilize funds and use them as capital. The meetings also improve social relationships among the women groups

In June 2017, the 12th National Agri-show was held at Mulindi Showground, in Gasabo District, Kigali City from 22- 27 under the theme “Adopt climate resilient technologies to improve farmer’s livelihoods”. The JPRWEE supported cooperatives to participate in the event. In particular, 10 cooperatives were represented by 50 farmers (40 women and 10 men) divided into two groups. The main objective was to bring exhibitors and visitors together for exchange of information, knowledge and experience as well as getting market or investment opportunities through interaction with other exhibitors and consumers. Farmers and private sector used this forum to find new products, services and partnerships. The JPRWEE cooperatives had an opportunity to learn new experiences on agriculture innovations and getting into contact with different stakeholders in the agriculture sector. During the one-day visit, participating JPRWEE cooperatives had the opportunity to exchange with different institutions exhibiting their agriculture products/services through guided visits. These services and products included for example: credit opportunities for farmers in KCB (Kenyan Commercial Bank). KCB is a financial institution that provides credits for seeds and fertilizers, which can help farmers to plant on time. KCB also encourages women to take credits through a number of products that are aimed at supporting women to access finance, for example Community account (Twisungane) which is interest free, Zamuka Muhinzi loan (develop Farmer), SME loans, and the Asset Finance in Horticulture subsector for Greenhouse Technology among others. Other services were: the provision of insurance for climate change by UAP Insurance group, the irrigation technologies and methods presented by Trocaire, drying technology from the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resource (MINAGRI), ORANGE MACHINERY (PHHS equipment), the technology for Post-Harvest Handling and Storage (PHHS), RAB (efficient land use) and AGROTECH (drying technologies).

Two of the exhibiting cooperatives namely TWITEZIMBERE and URUMURI presented their products on one stand sponsored by WFP and decorated with JPRWEE banners and were able to sell 91 kg of bio-fortified beans (from the seeds received) and 14 kg of maize. Beans were sold at 450 RWF/KG (\$0.50) and

maize at 400 RWF/KG (\$0.47). The participation of cooperatives also enhanced exposure of members. JPRWEE exhibiting cooperatives showcased their quality commodities (maize and beans) on one agri-show stand.

Supporting women to participate to the Agri-show contributed particularly to outputs 1.1 and 1.2 under outcome 1. However, it is a cross-cutting activity that contributes indirectly to other outcomes/outputs such as outcome 2 on increased income to secure their livelihoods and create wealth; outcome 3 on enhanced leadership and participation; and response-policy environment for the economic empowerment of rural women.



Photo 6: URUMURI cooperative Woman interacting with a client during the National Agriculture Show in June 2017

During the year, the greenhouses of two cooperatives (Terimbere Ngeruka Cooperative based in Bugesera District and Cyimbazi Munyiginya Cooperative in Rwamagana District) were repaired under the direct support and supervision of UN Women. The repaired greenhouses allowed the 45 cooperative members to engage in a more effective production of tomatoes. The tomatoes are not only produced for subsistence farming but are also sold on local markets. Thus, the reparation of the greenhouses is expected to contribute to an increased income for the 45 cooperatives members and also benefit the livelihood of their 201 family members. Evidence on this contribution shall be collected at the end of implementation of the current year activities.



Photo 7: Twitezimbere cooperative tomatoes grown in one of the green houses.

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

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

In February 2017, an open day was organized by the project in Nyaruguru district. It was an occasion for participants (1 man and 10 women) to showcase their achievements so far through presentation of different activities and storytelling to different partners including; Nyaruguru district and sector officials, RAB, WFP, IFAD and UN Women as well as Implementing Partners. The opportunity to stand before a large group and explain their achievements women' self confidence is reinforce and some women have since been able to compete for local leadership roles including village leadership, village councils and members of National Women councils at the village and cell levels.



Photo 10: Open day in Nyaruguru district



Photo 11: Best performing participants that practiced training provided in the program were rewarded

The four agencies and local authorities from Nyaruguru district to cell level participated in this event. This activity reinforced the self-confidence for participants at the individual and cooperative levels. Furthermore, collaboration with local institution and partners (UN and Service Providers) was strengthened. It was an opportunity for the agencies to meet and mingle with the participants, implementing partners and local authorities, which contributed to strengthened synergy among JPRWEE stakeholders.

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

A joint Study Tour:

A joint study visit on Gender Action Learning System (GALS) was organized on 8 February 2017 for the new 119 champions (73 women and 46 men) involved in the JPRWEE in Rubavu district, Bugeshi sector. The objective was to allow the new champions to learn from the experience of other old GALS champions 160 (94 Women and 66 Men) trained earlier in 2016 and see how it works in a different context such as different value chains and different districts with different people. Another objective was a first attempt to form a network of champions for the sustainability after the program. The visit consisted of 2 different parts: champions were introduced to each other and shared achievements practically using GALS basic tools including; Vision, Gender balance tree, social empowerment map, Diamond dream and multilane highway, in the same room and the second part was to visit champions in their households. This study visit involved around 130¹³ participants from local authorities, partners (local NGOs) and participants of JPRWEE from different districts of the JPRWEE. There were a number of best practices shared by participants, for example;

Angelique INGABIRE a youth champion in Musanze district (Icyerekezo cooperative) shared the gender balance tree and the vision journey with her parents and it changed her father's behavior toward her mother. As a result, the family now has a common vision to develop their household, they have bought domestic animals (cows, goats, sheep,) but also the father is now able to support his wife financially for both home management and care of the animals.

Youth from Bugeshi sector shared what they learnt from GALS with the study tour participants and they communicated their determination to continue working towards their visions but also wished to organize youth workshops or seminars to allow them to have more time for sharing and learning how to adapt GALS by using existing experiences and other best practices from other countries.

Champions made household visits where they saw changes that happened as a result of GALS. For example in Bugeshi sector, champions appreciated the way participants are able to share their life experiences easily and how tools were displayed in their living rooms visible for all and how tools on paper are linked to all changes they observed.

Worth noting is the local authorities' testimonies that GALS brings changes at community level in Bugeshi sector, as they are using champions to resolve conflicts based on gender violence but also in social therapy groups for reconciliation among communities. The local leaders appreciate that energy and efforts spent in such conflict resolution related activities are instead used for other development aspects of the sector, and recommend that GALS should be implemented at a large scale in Bugeshi sector, Rubavu district and all sectors in Rwanda.



Photo 12: *GALS Champions visiting Marie Bugenimana a widow who shared her changes in household economy*

Training of RWEE beneficiaries in GALS Methodology

During the reporting period, the second phase of training on GALS focused on 130 champions (85 Women and 45 Men) from the 3 districts of Nyaruguru, Ngoma and Kirehe. The selection criteria of the champions were based on those within the second category of economic status (ubudehe), members of cooperative, preferably married, illiterate, better understanding of the GALS approach after the training and commitment to teach others and practice the methodology among others. It is envisaged that the champions would be

able to introduce the methodology to all households of 1,260 cooperative members by June 2018. The annual target in Kirehe was 30 champions (19 women and 11 men) to train 139 (15 men and 124 women) members and this is planned for January to April 2018. Twenty champions (2 men and 18 women) in Ngoma and 80 champions (48 women & 32 men) in Nyaruguru are training 1121 cooperative members¹⁴ (218 men and 903 women). The champions also participated in a catalyst workshop during the months of November and December 2017. The champions trained are from 10 groups (3 groups from Kirehe, 5 groups from Nyaruguru and 2 groups from Ngoma). The trainings were facilitated using 5 tools; Diamond dream, Vision journey, Gender Balance tree, multilane high way and social empowerment map.



Photo 11: *One of the Training Facilitators introducing the GALS methodology with different tools (Diamond dream, Vision journey, Gender Balance tree, multilane high way and social empowerment map to champions.*



Photo 12: *Local authorities have been able to follow the training and promised their collaboration and support in the sharing of information in the communities.*

¹⁴ 1121 are part of the 1260 coop members in the 2 districts

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

Output 4.1: Policy makers and parliamentarians have enhanced capacities to effectively mainstream gender into land, food, agriculture, nutrition and rural employment policies, laws and budgets.

In partnership with the Rwandan Parliament, a Policy Dialogue on Rwanda's agricultural policy and its nexus with gender equality, Malabo Declaration and the SDGs for a Climate Smart Agriculture was organized in November 2017. The main objectives were;

- Improve understanding of the crucial importance of mainstreaming gender into agricultural policies, programs and interventions;
- Enhance knowledge on how the National Agricultural Policy aligns with global commitments and gender equality principles;
- Identification of existing gender inequalities and gaps to inform the process of implementation of the Rwanda Agriculture Gender Strategy 2010

The dialogue brought together more than 80 Members of Parliament the chambers (deputies and senates), the Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI), the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN) and the Chief Gender Monitor (CGM) from the Gender Monitoring Office (GMO), FAO and UN Women Representatives, PS MINAGRI, JP RWEE Global Advisory Council member, and many others. An overview of the main pillars of Rwanda's agriculture policy was followed by presentations on persisting gender gaps in agriculture and agriculture related Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) recommendations for Rwanda. The subsequent discussions demonstrated that the policy dialogue enhanced parliamentarians' capacity to reflect on existing gender gaps in the Rwandan agricultural sector and to mainstream gender concerns into agricultural policies, strategies and planning documents. As a direct result of the Policy Dialogue, the Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources attended the quarterly meeting of the agriculture gender sub-sector working group at the end of November 2017, referenced the observations on the gender gap in agriculture presented by the Gender Monitoring Office (GMO) during the Policy Dialogue and highlighted the importance of adequately addressing these gaps in the new five year Strategic Plan for the Transformation of Agriculture (PSTA4) that has already been developed and ready for implementation.

The program received a Japanese mission (1 man and 8 women) from 18th -20th September 2017 composed of Young professionals from Universities in Japan and private sector. The objectives of the mission were to visit RWEE program realizations and to learn from the Rwanda achievements specially how women are capacitated and how different institutions work together for the same objective (PPP model: Public-Private-partnership model). PPP model enhances partnerships and increases ownership hence contributing to sustainability of the program. The mission visited RWEE activities in Nyaruguru (at cooperative and house hold level), met Rwanda Youth in Agri-Busines (RYAF organized by Ministry of Agriculture) and the occasion was to learn from how the JP RWEE program is jointly implemented and the role of each partner (beneficiaries, local authorities, implementing partners and UN agencies) with an aim of replicating the approach.

Challenges and Lessons Learnt:

The JPRWEE programme in Rwanda received additional funding of \$ 400,000 to consolidate the results achieved during the previous phases of the program and plan for a possible scale-up in the future. The funds were received in April 2017, and activities started in the second semester of the year. There was a slight delay during the project implementation due to the time lag between end of phase 1 in December 2016 and April 2017 when funds were received yet the program relies a lot on implementing partners that have to be engaged in line with available guidelines. Important to note however is the fact that agencies were able to use core funds to continue implementation of the RWEE program activities, for example FAO and UN Women used USD 20,682.23 and USD 24,639.59 respectively to cover RWEE activities between January and April 2017.

The period January to April was spent mobilizing resources for the program, and less implementation was done due to lack of funds, the combined efforts of the four agencies and headquarters however was seen as a good practice of collaboration and increased ownership of the program.

Limited resources and a short implementation period affect the program achievements even though the VSLA groups are being highly coached, their capacity building efforts take a longer time to yield results, if the project closes in June as currently envisaged, it would constrain the successful follow up of these newly formed groups and their sustainability in a short time could be at stake.

JP RWEE participants are mostly rural poor illiterate people with limited capacity to identify business opportunities in their areas and to design their own business plans and manage their finances properly. Rigorous training and capacity building programs are required to reverse this situation but more importantly efforts should be invested in the transformation process of mindsets to better understand their role and responsibilities in different interventions brought to them.

Lack of financial means limits some households to facilitate the subsidies from the project for example in the water harvesting initiative, households are only provided with iron sheets, nails and tumplines for the construction of water harvesting tanks., they are required to build their water tank and buy its windows, bricks and pay for labour with own fund that could go to 55,000Rwf (about \$64), this is not affordable by some of the poor households hence miss out on the opportunity. This lesson will inform the next planning period for the program to ensure even the most vulnerable beneficiaries are supported to access water harvesting tanks.

Data management has continued to be a big challenge, mainly due to lack of disaggregated data and records from the program beneficiaries. This requires expensive primary data collection approaches beyond the current program areas (3 districts) since the program has been implemented in other districts before. This coupled with the fact that the women groups have far more needs as compared to the support offered by the JPRWEE and will require concerted efforts to mobilize resources for the next phase beyond April 2018.

The concentration of JPRWEE implementation in 3 districts and only 10 groups has enhanced synergy and joint implementation of the program, however this came with some challenges including; having to take a lot of time for the same groups of farmers to participate in trainings, meetings, workshops and other program activities. The fact that all 4 implementing partners and 4 UN Agencies exist in all the 3 program districts sometimes overwhelms the farmers. This issue has however been discussed among the JP RWEE Technical Working Group member's and steering committee, a number of suggestions proposed for approval including; revision of the activities roadmap and better planning in future.

The Joint Program's visibility is very critical throughout the program implementation. Most stakeholders mainly the local authorities at district, sector and cell level are now aware of the RWEE JP thanks to the efforts of the implementing partners, local authorities and joint field visits by the TWG among others. The sector Agronomies are more involved in the program and provide technical support in better agriculture methods on a regular basis. The role of local authorities in the program through Joint Action Development Forum (JADF) was found to be very important in the program results and sustainability as this body is in charge of district development partnerships. They provide an avenue for the JPRWEE Program team to dialogue with local authorities regarding the effective delivery of the program targets and improved buy in of the program participants.

Best Practice:

Under the JP RWEE, working with women farmers' groups has promoted the creation of savings groups with potential to start businesses and create jobs. 1,133 members of the ten farmer groups (906 women and 227 men) were trained on access to finance and business planning based on the Village Savings and Loan Approach (VSLA). As a direct impact of the training, 50 VSL groups have been formed (40 groups Nyaruguru District, 6 in Kirehe District and 4 in Ngoma District). A majority of project participants have already starting saving an average of RWF 1,000 to 5,000 per week (USD 1.20 to USD 5.95 per week). As a result of VSLAs, 10 groups have been linked to MFI (SACCO), 5 groups of Nyaruguru and 2 of Ngoma and 3 of Kirehe districts. The plan is for the VSLA members to start saving and borrowing in MFIs and SACCOs and to start small businesses in the next quarter. It is envisaged that the VSLAs established in November 2017 have potential to contribute to improved livelihoods and consequently benefiting from existing programs such as; Medical insurance, access to education and food security. JP RWEE beneficiaries act as role models in their communities because of their attitude change due to trainings acquired.

The Greenhouses are a good practice as the technology is climate smart, whereas the vegetables mainly tomatoes grown on bare land provide only two harvest the greenhouse tomatoes are harvested 3 to 4 times. Secondly the vegetables in greenhouses can be planted at any time of the year which is not the case for the open gardens, moreover soils in the greenhouse can be changed every after a single harvest to allow new soils with good nutrients for the next season.

- **Qualitative assessment:**

An assessment was conducted in October 2017 with support of INADES implementing Partner as a diagnosis study of 10 farmers groups located in the districts of KIREHE, NGOMA and NYARUGURU under the JP RWEE. The main objectives of this study included: (i) the establishment of a baseline reference framework of women cooperatives which will act as a guide on any progress to be achieved over time; (ii) a

provision of a self-evaluation of women groups which will give a sense of ownership and participation; (iii) assisting members of women groups in knowing their strengths and needs for capacity building and (iv) identifying the best methodology for successful implementation of expected RWEE program activities. The study led to some of the qualitative information such as change in beneficiaries' live hoods.¹⁵

Steering committee and technical committee meetings have been regularly organized to discuss project implementation and adjustments. Three National Steering Committee meetings were organized during the year including the global steering committee meeting. The relationship with the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal resources has been strengthened through meetings with the Permanent Secretary and his participation to the global steering committee meeting on 06 April 2017. The PS MINAGRI did not participate in the following Steering Committee meeting held in August 2017; however meeting minutes were shared with him and has been engaged in other program sessions such as the Policy dialogue organized in November 2017 jointly by FAO, UN Women and Rwanda Parliament.

The former acting national coordinator for JP RWEE participated in the Learning workshop organized in Rome from 25 to 27 February 2017 to share experiences and lessons and discuss with colleagues on the program work plans. The workshop was beneficial and contributed to a better planning and implementation at country level.

Local authorities in Bugeshi sector Rubavu district (former JP RWEE district) have embraced the Joint program's GALS initiative and confirmed that the methodology brings changes at community level in Bugeshi sector, as they are using champions to resolve conflicts who arose following gender-based violence but also in social therapy groups for reconciliation among communities and this works very well. The local leaders appreciate that energy and efforts spent in such conflict resolution related activities are instead used for other development aspects of the sector, and recommend that GALS should be implemented at a large scale in Bugeshi sector, Rubavu district and all sectors in Rwanda.

¹⁵ This study was based on interviews with beneficiaries and covered the current program area, a detailed report is available and can be shared. We have not carried out any other assessments this year save for monitoring activities, and the stories documented and form part of this report, an assessment is planned in May 2018

ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:

Using specific Annual Work plan/Log frame –

Outputs	Indicators baselines/ targets	Milestones			
		2015	2016	2017	Observation/Comment
Goal: To secure rural women's livelihoods and rights in the context of sustainable development and the post MDGs.	% of the of undernourished population in target areas (% decrease over baseline) Baseline: 37% Target: 30%				Undernourished data shall come from Comprehensive food security & Vulnerability assessment and field visits
	% of rural women out of agricultural land owners owning land (individually or jointly with men) Baseline: Women Ownership 11% Joint Ownership 81% Target: Women Ownership: 30% Joint Ownership: 90%				Data shall be collected from District Land Office and Field visits to all RWEE program areas Baseline information was collected in 2017 March (Could be taken as current status)
Outcome 1 Rural women have Improved food and nutrition security	Indicator: % of agricultural production of women farmers (% increase over Baseline) Baseline: 30% Target: 50%			36%	2,344 women were trained in food security and nutrition. Some (1,724 women and 620 men) gained clear understanding of food and nutrition security issues. And Production capacities of 1088

Outputs	Indicators baselines/ targets	Milestones			
		2015	2016	2017	Observation/Comment
					women was enhanced by providing them with necessary inputs and tools; 1545 hoes, 7500 kgs of bio fortified bean seeds, 1545 pickaxes, 3090 handles, 45 watering cans, , bags for storage and 10750 kgs of DAP fertilizers.
	<p>Women dietary diversity or Household food consumption patterns (% of change over baseline)</p> <p>Baseline: 45%</p> <p>Target: 75%</p>			Status: 61%	Approximately 1,804 women and 340 men improved dietary and consumption patterns following the production of vegetables and staples. Given the availability of vegetable women diversified their diets. This information was collected during the project monitoring visits
<p>Output 1.1</p> <p>Rural women have increased access to and control over resources, assets and services critical for their food and nutrition security</p>	<p>Indicator: % of rural women in targeted areas accessing credit</p> <p>Baseline: 29.2%</p> <p>Target by 2017: 55%</p>			59 %	50 VSLA groups have been trained in business planning and access to finance though VSLA methodology 24% (Women in Cooperatives) 35% (individual women) 10 % of cooperatives members started the process of asking for loans

Outputs	Indicators baselines/ targets	Milestones			
		2015	2016	2017	Observation/Comment
					<p>190 women were assessed and coached on cooperative governance, business planning, capitalization and zero-loss policy. They are expected to have started processing access to credit</p> <p>This data was collected in March 2017 as baseline value for this indicator, and during the recent field visits as well as through IPs reports</p>
	<p>Indicator: Number of rural women accessing extension services (% of increase over baseline) Baseline: 974 Target: 2604</p>			<p>Status: 1327 (36% increase over baseline)</p>	<p>10 Farmer Field Schools were created and Kitchen gardens have been established at household lever during the reporting period. 240 men were involved</p>
	<p>Indicator: Number of rural women in targeted areas utilizing improved production techniques (% change over baseline) Baseline: 30% Target: 60%</p>			<p>1809 Women % change over baseline Status: 49%</p>	<p>1809 women are utilizing improved production technique. This data has been collected during the field visit, and data from the implementing Partners</p>
	<p>Indicator: Number of households with kitchen gardens and small livestock in targeted areas Baseline: 167 (HH with Kitchen</p>			<p>Status: 1004 HH have kitchen</p>	<p>974 households beneficiary produced vegetables trough kitchen gardens 125 women were Trained in</p>

Outputs	Indicators baselines/ targets	Milestones			
		2015	2016	2017	Observation/Comment
	gardens) ---- HH with Livestock Target: 1574 HH Kitchen gardens & 754 HH Livestock			gardens 1,374 HH with Livestock	Kitchen gardens and 30 kitchen gardens were established at household level in semester II. No small livestock in targeted area is planned in the current phase of the joint program although some households have acquired livestock as a result of the program activities
Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Distribution of fruit tree seedlings</i> • <i>Training on preparation of fruit tree nurseries</i> • <i>Support participants in water harvesting at household level through construction of water harvesting system.</i> • <i>Training on compost preparation</i> • <i>Provide technical advice and support of feeds to vulnerable rural women involved in chicken farming</i> 					
Output 1.2 Rural women have greater capacity to enhance and control local food security reserves and their production	Indicator: Number of women-led and managed local food security reserves in target groups Baseline: 30 Target: 1000			45	15 farmers groups have received shelling and cleaning equipment 12,058 members including 5,762 women and 6,296 men). 1027 women have received post harvest handling bags for food storage
	Indicator: % of rural women accessing innovative food processing units Baseline: 29% Target: 59%			Status: 47%	Food Processing has been done in maize and tomatoes for 4 groups of KOBINYA, Terimebere Mugore wa Sake, Twitezimbere and COTECO

Outputs	Indicators baselines/ targets	Milestones			
		2015	2016	2017	Observation/Comment
					(maize). More than 1730 women participants are accessing integrated services, 4 women led groups have greenhouses and were trained on best practices in horticulture production and processing
Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support in Post-harvest equipment (<i>Hermetic bags, tarpaulin and shelling machines</i>) • Train participants in entrepreneurship and Business planning 					
Outcome 2 Rural women have increased income to secure their livelihoods	Variation of women/ women groups/ cooperatives income generated from their sales to WFP and other markets (% of change over baseline). Baseline: 39% Target: 50%			49 %	1027 women and 233 men supported in rural women empowerment program currently to date. Data on income variation is yet to be collected, no sales to WFP have been done yet
	Proportion of rural women with empowerment in the income domain of the WEAI[1] (control over use of income) Baseline: 31% Target: 92%				WEA index is not yet tracked

Outputs	Indicators baselines/ targets	Milestones			
		2015	2016	2017	Observation/Comment
	Income generated by rural women's cooperatives from their sales to WFP and other markets Baseline; 100,000rwf			FRW 4.5 million (US\$ 5,863)	The income from generated sales is for individual and collective income generating activities.
Output 2.1 Rural women have enhanced entrepreneurship skills and value chains to access markets for their products	Indicator: Number of rural women trained in Entrepreneurship skills and value chains Baseline: 0 Target: 120			Status: 35 women	35 women were trained in entrepreneurship skills and marketing 14 women, involved in milk, value chain, 3 women involved in honey value chain, 18 women involved in maize value chain, benefited from entrepreneurship training
	Number of rural women's cooperatives supplying agricultural products and home grown school meals through WFP programmes.			Status: 15 cooperatives	
	Indicator: Number of rural women's cooperatives and women groups with agriculture production sales to markets Baseline: 2 Target: 51			Status: 10 cooperatives	All 10 groups are selling some of their production to markets. 722 women producers accessed better markets (more than 100% increases in prices) for tomatoes due to better quality product.
Activities					

Outputs	Indicators baselines/ targets	Milestones			
		2015	2016	2017	Observation/Comment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train and coach rural women on commodity post-harvest handling & storage/PHHS. • Organize trainings on women's access to finance and business planning 					
Output 2.2 Rural women have increased access to decent wage employment opportunities	Indicator: Number of women employed who entered the formal labour market or initiated self-employment activities Baseline: 1000 Target: 2,500			Status: 1,028 women	1,028 women from six cooperatives were linked to WFP's home-grown school feeding programme in order to sell their quality produce to schools and increase income. 65 rural women have been employed for cleaning and sorting cereals and pulses at good wages, 6 women have been employed as accounts in their respective cooperatives
	Indicator: Number of women involved in agro-processing and other value adding or innovative agribusiness activities. Baseline: 71 Target: 920			Status: 255 women from 2 cooperatives are in maize processing, and 114 women from 3 cooperatives are in tomato processing Current Status: 369	114 rural women from Twitezimbere Cooperative in Nyaruguru district, Kobinya and Terimbere Mugore wa Sake cooperatives in Ngoma district have been supported with processing equipment of tomatoes into tomato jam and ketchup in the current phase of the joint program
	Indicator: Number of women trained and			Status: 803	Also 176 men participated, Rural women and men

Outputs	Indicators baselines/ targets	Milestones			
		2015	2016	2017	Observation/Comment
	coached on Post Harvest Handling and Storage (PHHS) Baseline: 0 Target : 1260			women)	appreciated the training and mentioned that it will contribute to the quantity and quality of the grains produced. There would be access to good market hence contribute to increased income.
Activities					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Train Cooperative Women in post harvest handling and processing techniques</i> • <i>Facilitate women groups with processing equipment</i> 					
Outcome 3 Rural women have enhanced leadership and participation in their communities and in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programmes	% of rural women elected as representatives in rural councils / local authorities Baseline: 0 Target: 30%			43.3%	The 2015-2016 NEC election report shows that 43.3% rural women in the targeted districts were elected as LC representatives.
	% of Producers Organizations led by women Baseline: 78% Target: 90%			80%	Overall 78% of supported 8 out of the current 10 cooperatives so far are led by women. The project is supporting 1027 women and 433 men.
	% of rural women with empowerment in the leadership domain of the WEAI				The indicator is not tracked yet but also it may not be relevant to Rwandan context
Output 3.1	Provinces were trained to provide				

Outputs	Indicators baselines/ targets	Milestones			
		2015	2016	2017	Observation/Comment
Rural women, including young women have enhanced confidence and leadership skills to participate in local governance	business development services to other women such as the dissemination of business related information, leadership trainings and promotion of women				
	Indicator: Number of women candidates in rural councils' elections Baseline: 30% Target: 50%			Status:	The available data is not disaggregated by sectors or cells, and what data collected from current beneficiaries needs is partial, we still need to collect data from all JP RWEE beneficiaries in previously involved districts
Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Scale up the Gender Action Learning System (GALS) methodology</i> • <i>Train Cooperative members in GALS approach and form champion groups</i> • 					
Output 3.2 Rural women have greater organizational capacities to form, sustain and participate into POs, cooperatives and unions	Indicator: Number of informal rural women's groups who join formally registered POs, cooperatives and unions Baseline: 4 Target: 13			Status: 6 groups	13 youth GALS Champions 14 women Champions, involved in milk value chain, 3 women Champions involved in honey value chain, 18 women Champions involved in maize value chain, formed GALS Champion groups and are

Outputs	Indicators baselines/ targets	Milestones			
		2015	2016	2017	Observation/Comment
					planning to form networks, 10 Women groups under JPRWEE, 6 of which have legal cooperative status
	Indicator: Number of POs, cooperatives and unions that adopt a gender policy/strategy and/or a women's quota for their board Baseline: 12 Target: 51			Status: 22	All current 10 Women groups are adopting gender policies and guidelines in leadership and decision making. Women occupy 68% of all groups/cooperative leadership positions, while men occupy 32%
Activities					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support rural women's groups/associations to upgrade into formal cooperatives • Organize training on cooperative governance, financial management, gender and value chains 					
Output 3.3 Rural women, including young women, have increased capacity to engage in and influence relevant policy forums at national and regional levels	Indicator: % of rural women's coalitions adopt common positions to influence national and regional policy forums on the new SDGs and Rio+20 follow up Baseline: 0 Target: 45% of Women Coalitions				This data is yet to be collected
	Indicator: Baseline: Target:				
Activities					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support rural women to participate in national and regional agricultural shows 					

Outputs	Indicators baselines/ targets	Milestones			
		2015	2016	2017	Observation/Comment
Output 3.4 Rural women, including young women have enhanced awareness on their rights in a more supportive community/local environment.	Indicator: Proportion of rural women and young women participating in community listening clubs Baseline: 30% Target: 60%			Status: 45%	A total of 119 Champions (73 women & 46 men) participated in a joint study visit on Gender Action Learning methods (GALS) and 85 Women participated in GALS training in Kirehe, Ngoma and Nyaruguru districts
Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize exchange visits among rural women to learn from other clubs Train Rural women on the importance of listening clubs 					
Outcome 4 A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women	% of government budgets and donor funding allocated to programmes benefitting rural women			25% Compliance	Rural development fund is broad hence there is need to work out funds allocated to rural women development
	Number of laws to secure rural women's ownership over productive resources			3	3 out of 9 laws on gender provide for Women' ownership over productive resources
Output 4.1 Policy makers and parliamentarians have enhanced capacities to effectively mainstream gender into land, food, agriculture, nutrition and	Indicator: Number of laws to secure rural women's ownership over productive resources Baseline: 3 Target: 10			5 laws and 5 strategies	-Law governing land in Rwanda (2013) -The Law on Matrimonial Regimes, Donations, Succession and Liberalities (2016) on gender equality in

Outputs	Indicators baselines/ targets	Milestones			
		2015	2016	2017	Observation/Comment
rural employment policies, laws and budgets					property ownership in marriages and inheritance, -Organic law on state finances (2013) -Law for the Prevention, Protection and Punishment of Gender Based Violence (2008). - National Gender Policy (2010), - National Policy for Family Promotion and National Policy against GBV
	Indicator: Number of national policies and laws that make provisions for gender equality and women's empowerment Baseline: 9 policies and laws Target: N/A			10 policies and laws	It is not easy to measure the JPRWEE's attribution and contribution on this indicator because there are many other actors such as the National Gender Machinery,
Activities					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Organize training of trainers and coordinate subsequent local training sessions on current real property laws and policies to enhance women's access to and control over land</i> • <i>Organize policy dialogue with the Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Environment and district level Executive Secretaries, Planning, Agriculture and Gender and Family Promotion Officers on gender and climate smart agriculture through the Rwanda Women Parliamentary Forum (FFRP)</i> 					
Output 4.2 Greater availability of tools and data to track progress in the	Indicator: "Women's empowerment in agriculture index" (WEAI) is piloted or mainstreamed				This indicator is not yet achievable for Rwanda hence not being tracked. However is

Outputs	Indicators baselines/ targets	Milestones			
		2015	2016	2017	Observation/Comment
economic empowerment of rural women	in National Statistics Baseline: - Target: Yes				has been considered in the new Agriculture Gender Strategy (2018 – 2022)
	Indicator: Baseline: Target:				
Activities					
Output 4.3 An enabling environment is promoted to reflect rural women’s priorities in regional policy processes.	Indicator: Participation rate (%) of rural women in dialogues on agriculture, rural development and land disaggregated by national, regional and global Baseline: 75% of Rural Women Target: 95% of Rural Women			81% at National level	50 women from 10 cooperatives participated in the Agri-Show and exchanged ideas with other Exhibitors. 2 rural women participated in the International Rural Women Day dialogue in New York via skype About 80 women participated in A policy dialogue on Gender in agriculture was organized and attended by parliamentarians, 2 ministers of Finance and Agriculture, Gender equality leadership (National Gender Machinery in Rwanda, UN Agencies and other development Partners

Outputs	Indicators baselines/ targets	Milestones			
		2015	2016	2017	Observation/Comment
Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Facilitate Rural Women to participate in Agri shows</i> • <i>Provide post harvest handling materials to farmers in order to showcase good quality products</i> 					

SPECIFIC STORIES FROM JP-RWEE ACTIVITIES

Video by FAO on JP RWEE beneficiaries' achievements in Nyaruguru districts, see link below;
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=69m7_WDanKo&t=2s

Specific Story 1: Cecile Mukamanzi

As a pioneer of the Terimbere Mugore wa Sake women group, one of the groups benefiting from the JPRWEE, this women group is located in Sake sector, Ngoma district and currently has 41 members (1 man and 40 women), Cecile has been involved in a number of the program activities including the growing of tomatoes in the greenhouse provided by JPRWEE, benefitting from various trainings and gaining confidence and leadership skills.

I am a president of Terimbere Mugore Wa Sake cooperative Cecile proudly narrates. We were 60 women when we started our cooperative in 2014. However some members dropped out, some due to their personal reasons and others due to laziness as they didn't want to work hard as required by the group. Our aim was to improve our livelihoods so that we may take care of our families.

Before the programme, the Economic status of the group was poor, we therefore started collecting 200Rwf as membership fees per meeting and we would hold at least two meetings in a month. Our main activity was to grow maize on a leased land and get at least 40,000rwf (\$47) from the sale of maize per season (a season of 6 month) which was about 7000 frw/ month (\$ 8 /month). When the JP RWEE came, we had saved 300,000 frw (\$351) on our account.

The program supported us with a greenhouse and life was never the same. With a green house, we grew tomatoes and the JP provided an agronomist to support us for a period of 6 months. In the two seasons, which is 16 months, we sold tomatoes and got 1,300,000 frw(\$1,520). The program has improved our lives because we used to have a monthly income of approximately 7000rwf (\$8) but now we are getting 81,250 frw/month (\$96/month). We now have 1,600,000 frw (\$1,871). This money is being used to lend beneficiaries with small interest, to start small business in their areas of interest and expertise.



Above; Cecile drying maize using some of the post harvest handling materials provided by JPRWEE

“I am so proud of being part of the group and for having led the group to this progress” Cecile says. We have been trained in GALS approach which helps us to manage our homes and communities. As an individual I have benefited from the program and currently own a small business that supports me and my family.

Specific Story 2:

Ms. Alphonsine Nyirabagenzi, President of Urumuri Cooperative, Nyaruguru District

I am married and have three children. I joined the JPRWEE as a beneficiary in 2015. Since then I have participated in several trainings and I acquired very useful knowledge on how best to handle my agricultural activities. For example, before joining the program, I planted bean seeds in a very disorderly manner. Since, I have learned that the most effective way to plant beans is in straight lines, with two seeds per pocket. The productivity of my field has increased so much since then. Where I needed 10kg of seeds before, I now only need 3kg for the same harvest quantity. I also learned more about how to plant and tend to maize, especially through the use of fertilizer. I shared this knowledge with my husband Jérôme Niyirema, who is not a cooperative member, and together we have multiplied our production.

Through the activities I have been part of under the JPRWEE, I have gained a lot more confidence and I have even been elected president of our cooperative. My husband is proud of me, he recognizes that a woman is able to lead a cooperative and considers it an honour for our family that I am cooperative president. Not at all a source of conflict, my success has been source of productiveness for my family. Through the increased productivity achieved and support received through the program – for instance, through the pig we received and then had young piglets – we were able to acquire a young cow. We have also been able to make improvements to our home. We have proper new doors and windows and improved walls that are also easier

to clean. I would like to save up to build a real kitchen now, the material is already available.

We have also asked for a loan of USD 23 (RWF 20,000) from our savings group and invested it into a small business wherein we sell potatoes and cassava flour. I bought the cassava roots and brought them to the milling machine our cooperative is operating through the RWEE program. There, I produced flour which I then sold. I also acquired 5kg of fertilizer for our maize field. We harvested more than 700kg of maize, of which we sold 300kg for USD 70 (RWF 60,000). Prior to the trainings received, our harvest was less than 100kg. We also bought Irish potatoes seeds and chicken who lay eggs. I did not buy any new land since the start of the program, but our productivity has increased a lot. From the USD 23 loan, USD 20 (RWF 17,000) have already been repaid. My family used to be in the first ubudehe category, now we have reached the second category. It is now a lot easier for us to access health insurance. My husband and I use a system where we set aside 1 bag of maize after each harvest, the profits from the sale of which will be used to cover insurance costs.

Through the JPRWEE, we have also learned how to build a water harvesting system. I have bought part of the material myself and we now have a small cistern behind our house which collects rain water from the roof. This system brings considerable advantages for us. Before, we had to walk very far and to collect water for cleaning, washing and for our animals. Now we have a lot more time available from other activities, and the children also do not have to go to fetch water anymore. We share the collected water also with our neighbours.

Other than getting a kitchen and also new cement floor for our house, I would like to go even further and buy a different type of cow who gives more milk. These types of cows are more expensive than the cow we have at the moment. Our cow also gives some milk, just not as much, but the children are able to drink some of it. Our children are 3, 6 and 12 years old. Also, I would like to buy land. The management of the cooperative as president is quite time consuming. My husband is supporting me at home, but it was not always easy to manage time. However, I have learned so much from this position. Through this position and the training offered under the JPRWEE, I have learned about cooperative governance, credit and savings and gender balance. Now I know how to establish and follow a budget. I have not only benefitted a lot from agricultural knowledge, but also in terms of my personal development. I am now able to express myself freely. I have even travelled to Kigali, Rwanda's capital, twice.



Through her participation in a savings group, Ms. Alphonsine Nirabagenzi has taken a loan and, amongst others, invested it in the acquisition of Irish potato seeds. Ms. Nirabagenzi can get an income from selling the potatoes.



Ms. Alphonsine Nirabagenzi and her husband Gerôme have been able to purchase a cow since the start of the program. The cow gives milk which is partially sold, partially consumed by the couple's children.



The vegetables garden behind her house supplements the income of Ms. Alphonsine Nyirabagenzi and her family and offers contributes to the diversity of her family's meals.



Through a special coating of the roof, rain water is collected and stored in a small cistern. Through this water harvesting technology Ms. Alphonsine Nirabagenzi and her family have water available for their animals and for cleaning and washing.



The unpredictability of rain fall presents a challenge for Ms. Alphonsine Nirabagenzi and her family. The fields surrounding her house may receive too much or too little rain water.



Specific story 3: Dusabe Jeanette

Dusabe Jeanette is a 30 years old woman, member of Terimbere mugore wa Sake, in Ngoma district. One of the cooperatives that benefit from JPRWEE support such as a greenhouse for vegetables, farm inputs (fertilizers, farm tools..etc) capacity building in modern agriculture, access to finance and business planning, GALS training and development of Kitchen gardens among other things. She is married and lives with her husband and her 2 children. She joined

Before the programme I was extremely poor, lonely, desperate and had a conviction that I was good for nothing. I could not go into a meeting as I rarely had water to clean up and clean clothes to wear. I was ashamed and had no confidence at all. I was in the first category of Ubudehe (Poorest Economic Status ranking). My only source of income was to go around searching for farm jobs on other farmer's land. Often it wasn't easy to be employed because I had kids and not every boss would hire a woman with little children. In those cases, my husband would be the only one to put food on the table. We could not afford health insurance (Mutuelle de sante) or to lease land on which we could grow crops (beans, maize or Irish potatoes). We had no vision or promise for the future.

After joining the cooperative, I managed to make friends and interact with other women. Being able to discuss with other women was eye opening. I started taking better care of myself, including the way I dressed as I would always be concerned with what others would think of me. I increased my confidence level and I can now easily speak in front people, which was not the case before I joined the group. I was upgraded to the 2nd category of Ubudehe. The JPRWEE programme has supported the cooperative with a green house in which we grew tomatoes. For the first harvest, each member was given 9000 Rwf (11 USD) which I used to pay for health insurance. In the second harvest, we got 5000 Rwf (6 USD) which I used to start a small business that soon increased to 30,000RWF (36 USD) and keeps improving, with a daily profit of 500Rwf, which is an addition to my normal farming activities. I can now care for my two children because I am no longer looking around for jobs. I am planning to lease land in the next season and use the skills acquired from the cooperative in my own land. I trust that the land will highly contribute to our family income and wellbeing. The main challenges that we face are; limited access to land, no access to credit, and more significantly the current drought that we are experiencing (July to August 2017). The support of the cooperative in accessing credit would truly be helpful to us.



Left: *Jeannette Dusabe giving her story to Marie Rose the RWEE Program Assistant at WFP during a field visit.*

Summary of Results(if applicable):

“After joining the cooperative, I made friends and interacted with other women. Being able to discuss with other women was eye opening. I changed literally in my dressing as I would always be concerned with what others will think of me. I increased my confidence; I can now easily talk to a group of people which was not the case before. All of which were missing before.

Secondly, I was upgraded from the lowest 1st level to the 2nd level of economic category known as UBUDEHE. The RWEE programme has supported the cooperative with a green house and we grew tomatoes. For the first harvest, each member was given 9000 frw that I used for paying the family health insurance. The second harvest, we got 5000 frw and I used the money to start a small business, started with two baskets of tomatoes and onions. Now my business has a value of 30,000frw. I can earn 500frw per day and I hope to earn more in the future. With the 500frw addition to my individual farming activities, I can take care of my two children because I am no longer looking around for jobs. I am planning to lease land the next season and use the skills got from the cooperative to a large scale and I have trust that it will highly contribute to our family income and wellbeing”

Lessons Learned: The lesson learnt from this story is that;

Women involvement in cooperatives and other solidarity groups increases chances of benefiting from projects and programs like RWEE and could improve their livelihoods and wellbeing and that of their families.

The groupings are a good methodology to increase rural women confidence, cleanliness and fulfillment because they have to appear better and are able to share experiences and good practices.

Specific Story 4: Beata Umutesi

Beata is a member of Abaticumugambi cooperative in Kirehe district. She praises the RWEE program because of the achievements from the program.

“The RWEE programme provided me with a hoe and a spade to use at the farm. We were given quality

seeds of beans, it made a big difference because the same piece of land we previously used as a family, we planted 8kg and harvested 70 kg, but with the improved bean seeds, we received 5kgs and harvested 150kg. We took part of the harvest as seeds for the next season and another part was sold for money to cover other family needs. I depend on two sources of income I am a farmer and I trade rice from Tanzania and salt in the neighborhood. In this last year I was able to collaborate with three other women in the cooperative to build a small commercial house in the center. It is an asset that will be a source of income in few months to come, we intend to rent part of it and to do business in another. Before the programme, we were using traditional farming techniques for instance using a lot of seeds, inappropriate use of fertilizers and planting bad variety of seeds with no crop rotation. This was a result of rudimentary agricultural practices which led to poor harvest before the programme”

Before the RWEE Program, Beata was not part of any group she was a normal farmer, growing beans and maize as an individual and on a subsistence level. She was shy and had no leadership role at all. After joining the cooperative, and with the help of RWEE Programme, Beata was chosen to be a treasurer in the women group. The position is a great experience for her as she has greatly improved in her initiatives and innovativeness. Beata became more proactive and had an opportunity to exchange with others and learn from them especially on how to balance business and home management. It gave her confidence that enabled her to start trading in rice from Tanzania in the village she lives in.

III. Other Assessments or Evaluations (if applicable)

In February 2017 and in line with the HQ mission recommendations, the program management sought services of an M&E expert to review the JPRWEE programme monitoring framework, including a refinement of proposed indicators to reflect the national context, identify data sources and collect baseline data for those indicators. The aim was to support tracking of the results achieved under the JPRWEE, a Performance Monitoring Matrix for principal Outcomes and key Outputs developed and included in the program’s logical framework lacked appropriate data on proposed indicators which was hampering proper monitoring and reporting on results, making it difficult to set reliable targets in the absence of baseline information. The revised PMF now has baseline values and updated indicators, which will support data collection and reporting in a result based approach.

Rwanda will work on some case studies that will complement what will be done through data collection and reporting on indicators provided in the performance monitoring plan. The TWG is planning to jointly collect and document around four case studies on the following four indicators:

- ✓ Number of rural women in targeted areas accessing credit (by individual, women groups and women cooperatives)
- ✓ Number of rural women in targeted areas utilising improved production techniques (% change over baseline)
- ✓ Income generated by rural women’s cooperatives from their sales to WFP and other markets
- ✓ % of rural women elected as representatives in rural councils/local authorities

Data will be collected from individual women and women groups, so the number of women is not determined yet, the relevant sample size shall be determined based on total population for the data collection. The case

studies were not finalised by end 2017 due to lack of data and records in the program area. A more concerted data collection exercise involving previous RWEE districts shall be planned for next year before closure of the current work plan as this would allow more authentic data of what RWEE contribution is or has been.

IV. Programmatic Revisions (if applicable)

Based on recommendations from the Head Quarter's mission in Rwanda in November 2016, in consultation with GoR, and due to reduction in the program resources as well as the need to work more jointly and focus on impact, the Rwanda team decided to reduce the number of participants from over 10,000 from 8 districts to only 1,260 participants from 3 districts of Ngoma, Kirehe and Nyaruguru. As mentioned above, the selection of these districts was informed by their poverty levels, vulnerability of the participants and need for the 4 UN agencies to work more jointly for more impact.

V. Coordination mechanisms

- Finalization of indicators for the logical framework and 2016 Annual Reports. WFP drafted a survey/checklist containing all information required from cooperatives. The survey/checklist was used to complete the logical framework;
- The PS MINAGRI participated in the ISC with FAO and WFP Representatives on 6 April 2017. A joint field visit by the national steering committee and the PS of MINAGRI is planned in the last week of March 2018 as way nurture collaborations with national stakeholders.
- A field visit of PS MINAGRI to Nyaruguru was planned for 4 April but could not take place due to other urgent matters. However, the MINAGRI Gender Advisor, Ms. Caritas Kayilisa, was delegated by PS to attend a visit to selected Cooperatives in Cyahinda, Nyagisozi and Ngoma sectors (Nyaruguru) and Nyarubaka and Musambira Sectors (Kamonyi) from 4th to 5th April 2017. One of the observations Ms. Caritas made was that the level of involvement of the District and sectors' agronomists was low and recommended for them to play a more active role during the next project phase. The project coordination plans to involve them as much as possible as this is critical to fostering synergy, addressing increasing needs of the rural women and the supporting program's sustainability efforts.
- FAO RWEE Focal point and UN Women National Program Officer participated in a RWEE online KM workshop organized on 11 April 2017. While entering the final program phase, KM – in particular the capturing of lessons learned and dissemination was seen as priority topic to be considered during all aspects of project implementation.
- Under the leadership of the National Program coordinator, documentation of the program achievements communication of results have been given due attention as these are a major resource mobilization tools for scaling up the programme. Advocacy and knowledge products such as, success stories and brochures shall be produced and disseminated to stakeholders as part of increasing JPRWEE visibility. A success story brochure has been prepared based on data collection during the

recent TWG joint field visit, and a best practice on Greenhouses was documented and shared with the global coordinator as per attachments, some KM product are available.

- The National coordinator participated in the International World Food day organized by WFP, FAO, IFAD and MINAGRI in Karongi district and also participated in a joint field visit with the Minister of Gender and Family Promotion and Minister of State for Agriculture where she spoke about economic empowerment of Rural Women and benefited from networking and knowledge sharing with other stakeholders in agriculture, she will leverage the two events to inform the JP RWEE food security and nutrition security endeavors.
- Three joint field visits by the Technical Working Group (TWG) made of WFP, FAO, UN Women, IFAD and Implementing Partners were organized between August and December, and another one earlier was a joint open day in Nyaruguru district on 16th February 2017, only 4 had been planned during the period under review with an aim to strengthen synergy and jointness while implementing the program. The joint visits also brought along the Agronomies and Cooperative officers of the sectors in which JP RWEE is implemented and these have committed to providing technical support to the women groups in their agriculture activities.
- There has been improved knowledge and understanding of JP RWEE among the district authorities in the 3 districts as a result of improved collaboration with the Kirehe Joint Action Development Forum (JADF), a body that oversees all development partnerships in districts, for example through JADF sector Agronomies and Cooperative Officers have joined JPRWEE technical teams on the field visits and have been offering technical support to the farmers groups. The Forum has invited the JPRWEE National Coordinator, TWG and the RWEE beneficiaries in Kirehe to participate in the district Open day and showcase JP RWEE program activities and achievement. The Open day is planned for next year in February or March and will be a good occasion for the program participants to show what their achievements and market some of their products such as maize floor, tomato paste, fruits and vegetables.

VI. Resources

The project funds (US\$400,000) for the current phase were received in April 2017, FAO and UN Women activities were covered by core contributions during the period January to April 2017.

Table1: Financial Status as of December 2017

CATEGORY	FAO (US\$)	IFAD (US\$)	WFP (US\$)	UN WOMEN (US\$)
Contribution (Core)	20,682.23			29,879.46
Swedish Cooperation Agency SIDA	89,773	89,773 +9,800 (Bal CF)	130,681	89,773

Contribution				
Received		51,000 (from HQ)		32,985-(WFP)
Spent /Disbursed	57,867	16,200	44,862	74,140
Outstanding Balance	26,033	34,800	85,138	48,618

Notes: UN Women's received revenue was (122,758 USD) including \$89,733 from SIDA \$ 32,985.00 for Coordination & National Program Coordinator Position from WFP, Balance on UN Women also includes \$ 15,851.96 for coordination & NC Position. IFAD received \$51,000 from HQ.

Under UN Women, the expenditures under Outcome 2 amounted to \$24,639.59. An additional amount of \$5,239.87 was used to cover the costs of Monitoring and Evaluation activities. WFP spent \$ 44,862, to support farmers to attend Agri-show and field visit costs and disbursement to UN Women for the National Coordinator, FAO spent \$ 57,867 on distribution of farm inputs and seeds, fruit tree seedlings distribution and training of cooperative members while IFAD spent \$ 9,800 on the GALS knowledge management tour and 16,200USD for the GALS Kitchen garden training.

Note: The funds (\$9800) spent by IFAD under SIDA contribution during the reporting period, were balances from the previous phase while the funds spent by WFP were from the current phase replenishment hence only \$44,862 of the funds replenished in April 2017 were spent as of December 30th 2017. WFP had delays in spending due to delays in recruitment of the Implementing Partners; however they are now on board and on track with implementation although expenditure had not been made by the reporting time.

