



**ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARDS THE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF
RURAL WOMEN
BI-ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT
REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 30 JUNE 2019**

<p align="center">Programme Title & Project Number</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme Title: Accelerating Progress Toward Economic Empowerment of Rural Women in Rwanda MPTF Office Project Reference Number:00092006 	<p align="center">Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results</p> <p>Rwanda (Kirehe, Ngoma and Nyaruguru districts)</p> <p>The strategic result is to secure rural women's livelihoods and rights in the context of sustainable development and the SDGs.</p>
<p align="center">Participating Organization(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WFP, FAO, IFAD, UNWOMEN 	<p align="center">Programme Beneficiaries</p> <p>Direct participants: 2083 (1713 women and 370 men) participants for 2018 Number of participants from the beginning of the Joint Programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct: 18,275 (10,406 women and 7,869 men) Indirect: 87,446 (46,853 women and 40,583)
<p align="center">Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</p> <p>Total approved budget as per project document: MPTF Contribution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> by Agency (if applicable) <p>Agency Contribution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FAO Contribution: \$ 167, 144 WFP Contribution: \$ 260, 593 IFAD Contribution: \$154, 000 UN WOMEN: \$167, 144 <p>Government Contribution</p> <p>In Kind – 11.5 Ha of Land worth \$30,137 Contribution towards WEAI: \$312,727 Nkunganira Programme: Farm inputs Other Contributions (Core):</p> <p>TOTAL: USD 780,153</p>	<p align="center">Programme Duration</p> <p>Overall Duration 5 Years</p> <p>Start Date (15 09 2014)</p> <p>End Date (31 08 2020)</p>
<p align="center">Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.</p> <p>Assessment/Review - if applicable <i>please attach</i> Yes, No Date: 31/08/2019 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>JPRWEE Review, Women in Value Chain Finance, Gender Based Value chain for beans Yes, No Date: January to June 2019 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p align="center">Implementing Partners</p> <p>Ministry of Agriculture & Animal Resource (MINAGRI), Rwanda Cooperative Agency (RCA)-(government Partners) IMBUTO Foundation, INADES Formation Rwanda, CARE International, SAFE, YWCA, ADEPE, Duhamic Adri, Districts, Sectors (Implementing NGOs)</p> <p align="center">Report Submitted By</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name: Edith Heines Title: Representative & Country Director Participating Organization (Lead): WFP Email address: edith.heines@wfp.org

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

This bi annual report covers the period of January to June 2019 and provides the joint program progress in terms of achievements and results including success stories, good practices, lessons learnt, challenges and major changes that have happened among rural women as a result of the Joint Programme interventions during this period.

Since 2017, JP RWEE has identified and supported 18 cooperatives through training on cooperative management, cooperative laws, leadership, financial management and Post-Harvest Handling and Storage (PHHS) which enhanced group's abilities to work as legally registered cooperatives and to understand the concept of working as business-oriented entities. Capacity building in good agriculture practices (GAP) and market linkages efforts yielded results during the year, for example, Twitezimbere Cooperative was able delivered 25 Tonnes and 709 Kgs of main sold to AIF and EXE in season A 2019 (Feb to May).

During the reporting period, 514 women and 140 men strengthened their capacity in climate-smart agricultural techniques such as greenhouse farming, rainwater harvesting and small-scale irrigation. 289 women farmers enhanced their entrepreneurship skills and access to markets and 214 representatives of local authorities built their capacity in gender-responsive land and property laws. 500 women benefited from exchange of experiences to improve their livelihoods and build their confidence to take up local leadership roles, resulting in a decision by 300 women to take up leadership responsibilities in the next elections. 95 saving groups of 2,338 members (1,969 women and 369 men) were re-organized and trained on the Village Saving and Loans (VSL) methodology application and financial literacy as well as linkage to financial institutions to increase their capability to access finance.

In order to improve the gender policy environment, a Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) survey commenced during the first half of 2019 in collaboration with MINAGRI and DFID; data collection is ongoing, the final report is expected in September 2019. Other analytic studies to inform women empowerment in agricultural programme design included; Women in Value Chain finance and the gender-based beans value chain analysis. The JPRWEE review and the documentation of communication and KM products were conducted and have equally provided useful data/information that are expected to inform policy and future projects and programmes on Women Economic Empowerment in Rwanda as well as increase the joint programme visibility once disseminated. More engagement of government led to a collaboration with MINAGRI and local leaders in Nyaruguru district whereby two JPRWEE cooperatives in Nyagisozi sector in Nyaruguru district benefited from PHHS materials from PASP¹ project of MINAGRI, this is expected to support the joint programme sustainability.

¹ PASP is climate resilience, Post-harvest and Agribusiness Support project in MINAGRI

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 joint program rolled out a series of interventions related to climate adaptation, nutrition, Post-Harvest Handling and Storage, and tree nursery maintenance. Furthermore, 120 beneficiaries (100 women and 20 men) were trained on agroforestry and given knowledge on tree nursery maintenance. Through this intervention three model nurseries were established, and tree planting is scheduled to begin in September 2019. To ensure equitable access to and control over water resources the joint programme invested resources in scaling up the rain water harvesting intervention in the first half of 2019, this benefited 275 members (238 women and 37 men) who were trained on rain water harvesting and technical water management through a joint effort with IFAD and FAO. The technology continues to increase resilience to droughts and beneficiaries are able to store water for other households use reducing women and girls' unpaid work burden associated with water collection. A focus on more good agriculture practices during the period under review increased, for instance to improve production technics, and using bean seeds as a learning crop, beneficiaries were trained in Farmer Field Schools, 18 farmer field School facilitators were identified, trained and helped to coach 20 farmers Field School at field level for 2019 B season I. The greenhouse of KUBINYA Cooperative, has been repaired and the new location has been strategically chosen, Twitezimbere Kiyonza contributed 1,500,000Rwf (USD 1634) to the repairs of their greenhouse an indication that the cooperative can sustainably manage the green house beyond the joint programme.



Figure 1: FFS beans model garden in good condition for a JPRWEE women group in Ngera sector Nyaruguru District.

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

Capacity strengthening on Post-Harvest Handling and Storage (PHHS) from both training and distribution of PHHS equipment was conducted for 8 JP RWEE groups/cooperatives. The Training of Trainers (ToT) approach was used where 27 participants (18 women and 9 men) were trained and these trained 911 fellow farmers, who received 911 tarpaulins and 1,822 hermetic bags were distributed to the participants in partnership with MINAGRI. Farmers were educated on aflatoxin abatement as a means to improve grain quality and avoid the detrimental effects caused by aflatoxin exposure. As a result, farmers have improved on the quality and quantity of grain harvest and storage, especially for maize and beans, the storage capacity of these farmers increased from 0 to 182.2 metric tons.



Figure 2: Above left; Demonstration of the use of hermetic bags and right Distribution of tarpaulin to JP RWEE beneficiaries

Training of Trainers (ToT) on good nutrition practices and balanced diets benefited 70 lead farmers (58 women and 12 men), who in turn trained 2,083 (1,713 women and 370 men) additional farmers these new techniques. The 654 beneficiaries (514 women and 140 men) sold 4,796 KGs of tomatoes from January to June, generating 813,000 RWF (886 USD). Additionally, 151 GALS champions (112 women and 39 men) planted fruit trees which have improved nutrition, while kitchen gardens have reduced the cost of buying vegetables at household level.

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

Activities addressed the issues of reducing financial exclusion, increasing income, and enhancing access to savings mechanisms. A rapid needs assessment informed the decision to provide entrepreneurship training to 360 beneficiaries resulting in development of successful business plans by 18 JPRWEE groups which garnered 1,014,400 RWF (1,115 USD) in start-up capital. 2,338 members of 95 saving group members (1,969 women and 360 men) increased their knowledge on VSL methodology application and their levels of financial education, confidence and savings for investment increased through VSL methodology and intensive financial literacy trainings. Linkages from well-functioning VSL groups to financial service providers were formed to help insure continued access to savings and loans. Additionally, Following the Participatory Gender Review (PGR) exercise, 53 GALS champions (32 women and 21 men) who previously had dormant bank accounts, were subsequently re-activated as a result of trainings.

As part of the efforts to alleviate women and girls' unpaid work burden associated with firewood, 120 beneficiaries (80 women and 40 men) participated in a Training of Trainers on the construction, utilization and maintenance of Labor-Saving Technologies (LST), including energy-saving. The skills acquired could also be used to earn some income by constructing such cooking stoves equipment for other community members.

Building on achievements from last years, implementation in 2019 workplan saw an increased support to maize value chain development to some cooperatives through processing and packaging. Specifically, Urumuri Cooperative that already had a milling machine was supported with packaging skills and materials including; bags for packaging with cooperative logo and Moisture-meter as shown in the photos below. COTECO cooperative was also assisted with electricity connectivity to improve their office and milling services.



Fig 3: Packaging for Urumuli cooperative

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

Output 3.1: Rural women, including young women have enhanced confidence and leadership skills to participate in local governance.

According to assessments conducted, one in seven rural cooperative members of the joint programme, have enhanced confidence and leadership skills to participate in local governance. Mobilization of beneficiaries in leadership was an activity that allowed to build confidence and enhance public speaking of 1,043 beneficiaries directly (871 women and 172 men).

In partnership with Inades Formation Rwanda, a training on cooperative governance, cooperative laws and leadership was conducted for 79 farmers (55 women and 24 men) and 8 Social and Economic Development officers (SEDOs) at cell level. A combination of training and coaching on governance has enabled cooperative leaders to start documenting all meeting minutes for committees and the general assembly.

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

Nine (9) informal groups were able to comply with Rwanda Cooperative Agency (RCA) requirements and are in the process of applying for legal registration. 90 farmers (66 women and 24 men) from 18 groups/cooperatives were trained and coached on internal auditing to improve their skills on effective management of cooperative properties. Additionally, 80 farmers (59 women and 21 women) representing 8 new groups/cooperatives were trained on financial management, allowing them to become more effective and efficient managers.

600 beneficiaries (500 women and 100 men) from 18 groups participated in these conversations. 340 out of the 600 participants (300 women and 40 men) of panel discussions to sensitize and mobilize women for leadership took it upon themselves to take on leadership responsibilities in the next election of local leaders. Moreover, 214 local authority staff (130 women and 84 men) were trained on the gender-responsive implementation of land and property laws.

Output 3.3: Rural women, including young women, have increased capacity to engage in and influence relevant policy forums at national and regional levels.

A one day visit at the 14th national Agricultural show was organized and 126 farmers (38 men and 88 men) attended the event. Farmers had an opportunity to exchange and network with other farmers and different stakeholders in agriculture value chains and it was also an opportunity to learn about new technologies. Three of the joint programme cooperatives showcased and sold their products at the expo.

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

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

The Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) is underway. Currently the JP is collecting data from the RWEE beneficiaries. Through technical support, the joint program team contributed to the finalization of the WEAI methodology. The government will continue to receive technical assistance on the development of the index through the end of this year. The initiative was complemented by the finalization of two studies on women in finance value chain and the Rwandan bean value chain.

The JPRWEE played an active role in the recent successful revision of the 5 year Gender Mainstreaming Strategy (MINAGRI, 2019), which focuses on 5 intervention areas: a) appropriate financial Services tailored to women and youth and reduced barriers to access; b) the support mechanisms developed for women and youth to access markets and increase representation throughout the value chains; c) the support mechanisms to enable women to access extension, inputs and technologies to improve productivity; d) the Institutional systems strengthened to better plan for and mainstream gender and youth; e) New approaches developed to target mindset and behavior change at community and household level. In its 2019/2020 workplan, the JP has planned to support the dissemination of this strategy to CSO and private sector with an aim to increase uptake/implementation and enhance gender mainstreaming across the sector.

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

Technical support was given to MINAGRI in the revision of Agriculture Gender Strategy to align it to PSTA4. The JP RWEE team also provided support through participation in Agriculture Gender Sub Sector Working Group. The new strategy entitled "Agriculture Gender Mainstreaming Strategy" was finalized and validated in the current implementation period. It is planned in the 2019/2020 workplan once approved that support will be provided to disseminate and create awareness of this strategy among key sector actors.

II. Describe any delays in implementation, challenges, lessons learned & best practices (max 2 pages)

Challenges;

- The implementation timeframe for the 2018/2019 Joint Programme JPme work plan was underestimated, leading to delays in the completion of the planned activities as for June 2019, and requiring a no cost extension up to 31st August 2019.
IFAD experienced a delay in the implementation of the water harvesting and small-scale irrigation activity in Ngoma and Nyaruguru Districts. This was due to errors related to money transfers from IFAD to the service providers namely: Community Vision Initiative (CVI), IFAD Rome was resolving the issue at the time of reporting.
- About 60% of targeted? vulnerable women were unable to benefit from water harvesting systems at household level due to the fact they live in rented rather than owned property yet the tanks initially designed under the programme are permanent models. It was then recommended by both beneficiaries and local leaders and agreed with stakeholders to buy and provide to them with movable plastic water tanks which in case they moved houses could be moved too. Targeting was based on those who did not benefit during the previous phases.
- The sensitization sessions on leadership skills organized for rural women during the year were found to be insufficient for the required mindset change of beneficiaries. The programme recommends that future sessions should include the spouses of the rural women beneficiaries so that more men will understand the importance of this action and their role in supporting leadership aspirations of their wives.
- The vulnerability selection criteria for beneficiaries created a beneficiary base that was difficult to reach. Most of the newly selected groups of farmers don't have a shared land or business which makes it hard to mobilize and/or sensitize them. This has required more efforts from the joint programme Implementing Partners at the field level to regularly follow up on activities and organize several meetings with group/ cooperative members and be more frequent on the ground. The lack of shared land by some groups also deprived them some initiatives such as the small-scale irrigation and Farmer Field schools and learning opportunities that usually require, building on previous efforts, more advocacy has been put into more consolidated land and marshlands from government, this will continue in the coming season and is expected to yield positive results.

Lessons;

- Some gender-based practices which enable production factors to women such as equal ownership of production resources between husband and wife, equal rights to inheritance by boys and girls, have also evolved and cognizant of the challenge of land ownership. Land is registered in the name of both husband and wife and their children are considered as legal beneficiaries. This implies equal rights to land use by both men and women and has implications on access to the most important production factors like land. Capacity building on land laws and land rights that saw active involvement of local leaders and facilitation from the district land officers is expected to close the existing knowledge gaps among JPRWEE beneficiaries and improve their capacity especially rural women to claim their land rights as and when necessary.
- The absence of modern standardized grading requires the quality of produce to be manually checked. As a result, beans and maize are quite often packed and unpacked during marketing channels, creating additional labor costs, losses and inefficiencies in the market chain. The Rwanda Standard Board (RSB) has a regulatory mandate to ensure compliance to the food commodities quality standards but this is not yet applied to beans and maize sector that the JPRWEE cooperatives are mainly engaged in. More efforts should be put in quality standards of produce as per RSB requirements to improve marketability and reduce post-harvest labour intensive quality checks.

- Existing agricultural policies, strategies like PSTA4 and the five year Agriculture Gender Strategy AGS and development programs still fail to fully respond to basic questions about the differences in the resources available to men and women, their roles and the specific constraints they face and how these differences might be relevant to the proposed intervention in enhancing agriculture gender sensitive enabling environment. There would not be any single action for closing the gender gap for the agriculture sector in general, as a wide range of access to inputs, productive assets, services and markets involved and the related constraints are interlinked. The JPRWEE planned in the 2019/2020 workplan² to put more efforts in the joint programme's outcome four actions to contribute towards improving the policy environment for more appropriate gender sensitive progress that will significantly benefit rural women. It is also recommended that to continue efforts already made by the Government of Rwanda³ to ensure that access to resources is more equal and that agricultural policies, strategies and programs are gender sensitive and make women's voices heard in decision-making at all levels, the JPRWEE will put more specific efforts and advocacy actions from the agriculture value chain operators, development actors and government partners.

III. Qualitative assessment

A peer-to-peer learning session was organized in each of the 3 districts involved in the JP RWEE interventions in the context of mutual learning, exchange of knowledge and experience for agribusiness in the rural area, among female JPRWEE cooperative members. The sessions aimed at identifying common challenges and best practices in agribusiness. Emerging lessons learnt have been identified for their integration into wide-achievement of goals and targets set by the JP-RWEE. In total 6 cooperatives (146 women) participated in the sessions including; 48 women from Kirehe district 49 women from Ngoma district, 49 women from Nyaruguru district), and 5 selected peers with more experience and solid success stories were gathered to learn directly from one another.⁴ The peer-to-peer learning sessions involved other participating agencies. For details on how the joint programme has impacted the rural women, A footage and documentation of the women's success stories and human-interest stories are available.

For more evidence-based interventions, a rapid assessment was conducted at the start of the reporting period to identify the current status of the programme and gather information that served to refine program interventions. The assessment data was collected through focus group discussions, key informant interviews and observations at the field. In terms of entrepreneurial activities, the rapid assessment revealed that the majority of cooperatives (83.3%, n=15) have no regular markets for their products and these cooperatives also have a low level of entrepreneurship and business skills.⁵

In response to these findings, entrepreneurship trainings were delivered to 360 beneficiaries (289 women and 71 men). After the training, all groups/cooperatives were supported to come up with a Cooperative Business Plan, as earlier explained, Further support based on the quality of the business plans saw all 18 groups receive a start-up capital to implement their projects. As follow-up activity is business management advisory services is underway to each group on how the money could be used in a good and transparent manner. Further assessment on access to finance revealed that there is a need to strengthen the savings and loans methodology with much emphasis on financial literacy, saving on

² Activities are in the detailed 2019/2020 workplan (yet to be approved)

³ In addition to other initiatives, policies, strategies and gender inclusive instruments in place, a Gender Strategy for PSTA 4 was developed and a Women Empowerment Agriculture Index is being developed through partnership with MINAGRI, DFID and JPRWEE).

⁴ The Peer to peer sessions report were spearheaded by UN Women and a detailed report is available for reference

⁵ Assessment was done by Imbuto Foundation and is available for reference

targets, saving for investment and business mindset, records keeping, as well as facilitate them to register at least up to the Cell Level.

Partnerships:

In an effort to improve partnerships, networking, and visibility, the joint programme has established a relationship with Rwanda Governance Board (RGB) through the 5 JPRWEE groups (Abadahigwa ba Gatore, Tugaruke munzira, Kubinya, Twaguke Murama) that are implementing the chicken project supported by RGB through SAFE the programme IP in Kirehe. When RGB visited beneficiaries it had supported, the JPRWEE partners and beneficiaries introduced the GALS methodology to the RGB team. RGB has requested an introduction of the GALS methodology to their other funded projects for better gender equality and collective planning at household and cooperative levels. Further to improved partnerships and visibility of JPRWEE, the joint programme initiated a partnership with Hinga Weze project funded by USAID, which has a similar component related to women Empowerment. The JPRWEE hopes that this collaboration will be operationalized in JPRWEE implementation period by visiting Hinga Weze areas of intervention of the two projects and continue to share experiences and learn good practices from each other.

SixSix JPRWEE programme staff members (5 women and 1 man) were trained in Agri business leadership through the partnership between IFC and WFP, which is aimed at building capacity of women in leadership and improve their decision-making capabilities, enhance governance of formal cooperatives and the promote VSLAs, the intention of which is to mainstream the approach in to all JPRWEE interventions.

In January 2019, a Local Partners' Assessment Committee chaired by the Minister of MINAGRI and co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator, brought together more than 5 UN agencies representatives and staff to discuss the JPRWEE proposal to the UNIDAP sustainable development fund (SDF), the high-level meeting also involved NGOs as implementing partners. This activity was coordinated by RCO in close collaboration with WFP as lead agency in the joint programme. The proposal has since been approved and signed off by both government and UN representatives for possible funding under SDF.

Sustainability

In addition to subsidies as farm inputs to JPRWEE cooperatives through Smart Nkunganire scheme, continued efforts to engage MINAGRI resulted in more support of the joint programme cooperatives with postharvest handling and storage materials, 130 tarpaulins were distributed to Bimpinduka and COTECO cooperatives in Nyaruguru districts to supplement the joint programme's PHHS support. This collaboration is expected to grow in the coming period in support of sustaining what the joint programme's achievements.



Tarpaulins distribution to JPRWEE beneficiaries in collaboration with MINAGRI & PASP project, Nyagisozi sector local authority were also present.

The JPRWEEJPRWEE continued to develop synergies across the four Programme outcomes by addressing gender and socio-economic constraints impeding women's access and control over productive resources and assets. At local government level, key partnerships and collaboration were established with local level authorities through mainly the Joint Action Development Forum (JADF). The JADF office has been more involved in the joint programme activities as well as the sector Executive Secretaries and the sector agriculture officers continued to engage and provided technical and strategic support to the farmers' groups. During the period under review, the joint programme actively participated in the district open day organized by Kirehe district which saw all groups in Kirehe and Ngoma district participate to showcase their products and learn from other cooperatives. Knowledge management products were collected and informed the communication and KM products that is underway.

Coordination and Synergy:

The JPRWEE's synergy among the four participating UN agencies continued to grow stronger in 2019, a number of joint activities were achieved such as; joint field visits by the Technical Working Group (TWG), joint meetings with partners, Active participation in programme review and documentation of communication and KM products among others. These joint efforts have proved to play a role in increased visibility of the Joint Programme among stakeholders in districts, IPs, programme participants and government, and the collaborations made delivery of outputs faster.

ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:

Results	Indicators baselines/ targets	Achieved Indicator target	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
<p>Outcome 1 Rural women have Improved food and nutrition security Indicator: i) % increase in agricultural production of women farmers in targeted areas disaggregated by crop production and livestock Baseline: 61% Planned Target: 75% i) Dietary diversity disaggregated by meals per day and food composition Baseline: 61 % Planned Target:75 % ii) % of undernourished population in target areas Achieved indicator: Baseline: 37 % Planned Target: 30 % Achieved Indicator: 35% Source of Verification: Comprehensive food security & Vulnerability assessment report 2018</p>				
<p>Output 1.1 Rural women have increased access to and control over resources, assets and services critical for their food and nutrition security</p>				
	<p>Indicator: Number of rural women and men in targeted areas utilizing labour saving technologies (LST)</p>	<p>120 beneficiaries trained in the construction and</p>		<p>Partner reports</p>

Results	Indicators baselines/ targets	Achieved Indicator target	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
	Baseline: 0 Target: 120 (80 women and 40 men)	maintenance of LST (80 women and 40 men)		
	Indicator: Number of rural women accessing extension services (% of increase over baseline) Baseline: 974 (30%) Target: 2083 (100%)	Status: 1288 (32%) women and 260 (70%) men	The target covers the final year of the joint programme phase one	The equipment enabled farmers to reduce harvest losses and stored more food which contributed to improved household food security. Records from Farmers' groups agroforestry was reinforced 18 Farmer Field Schools were created, and Kitchen gardens have been established at household and cooperative levels. Knowledge related to how to prepare a tree nursery
	Indicator: Number of rural women led groups are utilizing climate smart technologies Baseline: Planned Target: 516 (390 women and 126 men) Number of Cooperatives supported with small- scale irrigation Baseline: 2 Planned Target: 6	654 (514 women and 140 men) from 5 groups/cooperatives 3 cooperatives	More rural women benefited due to increased targeting during the year This was a shared activity between FAO & IFAD, delays in implementation by IFAD led to the variance of 3 cooperatives	Implementing partner's quarterly reports

Results	Indicators baselines/ targets	Achieved Indicator target	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
	Number of targeted rural women who are applying newly acquired nutrition practices Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 1341	1342 Women	No major Variance, only 1 person exceeded the planned target	Field visits during cooking hours and observations at household level
	Indicator: Number of rural women in targeted areas utilizing improved production techniques (% change over baseline) Baseline: 30% Target: 60%	Status: 619 women (68%) from 5 farmers' groups	More efforts were invested in capacity building.	Field reports and implementing Partners reports and records from farmer's groups. 5 groups (519 women) are using improved production techniques while 100 beneficiaries (74 women and 26 men) were trained and are practicing techniques of managing nursery beds
Output 1.2: Rural women have greater capacity to enhance and control local food security reserves and their production				
	Number of Cooperatives in targeted areas utilizing the new drying shade as a post-harvest technology	0	Activity was delayed and will be reported on for the next period	
	Indicator: number of women accessing innovative food processing units Baseline: 1,207 women Target: 1,341 women	Status: 1,713 women	114 rural women from 3 cooperatives have been supported with tomato processing while 255 women from 1 cooperative are into maize, cassava and sorghum processing	Field visits and IPs reports

Results	Indicators baselines/ targets	Achieved Indicator target	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
			WFP provided extra PHHS equipment at no cost hence more women benefited	
<p>Outcome 2 Rural women have increased income to secure their livelihoods</p> <p>Indicator: i) Variation of women/ women groups/ cooperatives income generated from their sales to WFP and other markets (% change of baseline) Baseline: 39% Planned Target: 50%</p> <p>ii) Proportion of rural women in targeted areas with financial independence over their agriculture production incomes (income domain of the WEAI) Baseline: 31% Planned Target: 62%</p>				
<p>Output 2.1: Rural women have enhanced entrepreneurship skills and value chains to access markets for their products</p>				
	<p>Indicator: Number of rural women's cooperatives and women groups with agriculture production sales to markets Baseline: 2 Target: 10</p>	<p>Status: 10 women groups</p>	<p>10 (935 women) out of 18 groups made sales 8 new groups were not able to make sales due to low production capacity</p>	<p>Records of farmers' groups and monitoring reports</p>
	<p>Indicator: Number of households with small livestock in targeted areas Baseline: 167 Target: 600 HH Livestock</p>	<p>Status: 600 HH (420 Women and 180 men) received chicken</p>	<p>Other types of livestock did not fit in the budget</p>	<p>Observation at the field, Field reports and IPs reports</p>
	<p>Indicator: Number of rural women in targeted areas accessing finance from financial institutions (by SACCO, MFI, Banks, VSLs...) Baseline:</p>	<p>2,338 members (1,969 women) in 95 VSLAs were (re)organized and received trainings on VSL</p>	<p>The target for the period was to build capacity and facilitation.</p>	<p>Implementing partner's quarterly reports</p>

Results	Indicators baselines/ targets	Achieved Indicator target	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
	Planned Target: 1,000 (700 women and 300 men)	methodology, financial literacy and linkage.	IPs are now facilitating groups' account opening in SACCOs for savings product only.	Records on accessibility from Financial services by VSL group members are yet to be obtained
	<p>Indicator: Number of rural women in targeted areas accessing credit disaggregated by individual, women groups and women cooperatives (% change over baseline)</p> <p>Baseline: 300 women</p> <p>24% (Women in Cooperatives) 35% (individual women)</p> <p>Target by 2018: (465) 55%</p>	<p>473 women (57.6%)</p> <p>909 (79%) women in cooperatives</p>	<p>No variance</p> <p>1,149 members of ten farmer groups (909 women and 240 men) have formed 50 Voluntary Savings and Loans (VSL) groups. All VSL group members access credits from the group. In the first half of 2018, 185 members 173 women and 12 men) took out an individual loan from their respective VSL group.</p>	<p>Post training assessment report, field visits and Implementing Partners' reports</p> <p>Note: These Credit records are currently from VSLAs</p>
	<p>Indicator: Number of rural women trained in Entrepreneurship skills and value chains</p> <p>Baseline: 70</p> <p>Target: 1200 (900 women and 300 men)</p>	<p>Status: 360 beneficiaries (289 women -17% and 71 men) participated in entrepreneurship ToT training</p>	<p>The trainings were designed as training of trainers (ToT), the trained members have cascaded the training to other members however monitoring of the</p>	<p>Attendance records of training sessions for ToTs.</p>

Results	Indicators baselines/ targets	Achieved Indicator target	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
			knowledge transfer to the cooperatives will take place in the upcoming phase	
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: 1,000 Target: 2,5000	184 profitable businesses created employment for women by 2018.	Total businesses and women involved are under inventory and will be reported in the annual report.	
	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 (265 women) are in maize processing, and 114 women from 3 cooperatives are in tomato processing Status: 379	Support of the joint programme was limited to these groups during the phase	Group records:
Outcome 3: Rural women have enhanced leadership and participation in their communities and in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programmes				
Indicator: i) % of rural women elected as representatives in rural councils / local authorities Baseline: 43% Planned Target: 60%				
ii)% of Producers Organizations led by women Baseline: 78%				

Results	Indicators baselines/ targets	Achieved Indicator target	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Planned Target: 85% iii)Proportion of rural women in targeted areas with active leadership and decision-making roles Baseline: 43% Planned Target: 50%				
Output 3.1: Rural women, including young women have enhanced confidence and leadership skills to participate in local governance				
	Indicator: % of rural women (of all women beneficiaries) who are candidates in rural councils’ elections Baseline: 30% Target: 50%	Status: RWEE Women members are participating as village leaders, National Women Council Members, and other roles but actual data is yet to be collected	More specific data is expected from the Review report and active participation is expected in the next phase following the recent capacity building sessions leadership. To be able to compete for a local council position is critical... this indicator tracks how many of the JPRWEE women qualified as candidates for any of the local council positions	Local council records and Monitoring reports.
Output 3.2: Rural women have greater organizational capacities to form, sustain and participate into POs, cooperatives and unions				

Results	Indicators baselines/ targets	Achieved Indicator target	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
	Indicator: Number of informal rural women's groups who join formally registered POs, cooperatives and unions (% change from baseline) Baseline:6 Target: 14	Status: 9 groups (985 women and 402 men)	legal registration for some cooperatives was reversed due to an error in their names	Legal registration certificates and Cooperative records 9 out of the 18 women groups under JPRWEE, have legal cooperative status, 3 are at district registration level while 6 are still at the Sector level
	Indicator: Number of POs, cooperatives and unions that adopt a gender policy/strategy and/or a women's quota for their board Baseline: 10 Target: 18	Status: 18	All current 18 Women groups are adopting gender policies and guidelines in leadership and decision making.	Field monitoring reports and Post Training assessment reports
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 3.3.11: Number of women with leadership roles other than cooperative roles (Village councils, National women council etc...) Baseline: Planned Target: 90 members (74 women/16 men)	600 (500 women and 100 men) from 18 groups were sensitized to take local leadership roles.	The planned target was mainly capacity building and sensitization Data on current leadership status is expected from the Review report	Implementing partner's quarterly reports Note: 340 out of the 600 participants (300 women and 40 men) took upon themselves the decision to take on leadership responsibilities in the next election of local leaders.
	Indicator: % of rural women in coalitions adopt common positions to influence national and regional policy forums on the new SDGs and Rio+20 follow up Baseline: 0	Status:	This data is expected from the Joint Programme review	JPRWEE Review report

Results	Indicators baselines/ targets	Achieved Indicator target	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
	Target: 45% of Women Coalitions			
	Indicator: Number of rural women and young women participating in community listening clubs Baseline: 30% Target: 60%	Status: 204 women	Limited resources to have more participants. There are listening clubs in Rwanda. The number reported is the number of women involved in GALS.	IPs reports 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
Output 3.4: Rural women, including young women have enhanced awareness on their rights in a more supportive community/local environment.				
	Number of local authority officials that participated in capacity building sessions on rights Baseline: Target: 150 local authority representatives (60 women and 90 men);	214 local authorities (130 women and 84 men) were trained on practice of land laws and rights	Mobilization efforts and technical support from the district land Officers led to an increase in participation	Implementing partner's quarterly report, and Monitoring at the field 1,744 indirect beneficiaries (1,321 women and 243 men) are expected to benefit
Outcome 4 A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women				
Indicator: i) Proportion of government resources and donor funding allocated to programmes benefitting rural women				
Baseline: - Planned Target: 30%				
ii) Evidence of special measures to guarantee women's equal rights to landownership and control				

Results	Indicators baselines/ targets	Achieved Indicator target	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Baseline: Planned Target:				
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				
	Indicator: Number of laws to secure rural women's ownership over productive resources Baseline: 3 Target: -	5 laws and 5 strategies	Laws are dependent on other policy makers	Existing Laws: -Law governing land in Rwanda (2013) -The Law on Matrimonial Regimes, Donations, Succession and Liberalities (2016) on gender equality in property ownership in marriages and inheritance, -Organic law on state finances (2013) -Law for the Prevention, Protection and Punishment of Gender Based Violence (2008). - National Gender Policy (2010), - National Policy for Family Promotion and National Policy against GBV
	Indicator: Number of national policies and laws that make provisions for gender equality and women's empowerment Baseline: 9 policies and laws Target: -	10 policies and laws	JP RWEE has no control over the target but only contributions to the indicator,	Existing policies and laws can be viewed on MIGEPROF and Gender Monitoring Office websites
Output 4.2: Greater availability of tools and data to track progress in the economic empowerment of rural women				

Results	Indicators baselines/ targets	Achieved Indicator target	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
	Indicator: Data generated from the studies to inform policy makers and practitioners Baseline: 0 Target: 2	2		2 study reports on gender/beans value chain and women in value chain finance
	Indicator: “Women’s empowerment in agriculture index” (WEAI) is piloted or mainstreamed in National Statistics Baseline: - Target:	0 JP RWEE Beneficiaries’ targeting “regular” women farmers shall be among other respondents in the WEAI study	This indicator is not yet achievable for Rwanda but WEAI survey is ongoing the in partnership with MINAGRI and DFID	WEAI report is expected later in September
Output 4.3: An enabling environment is promoted to reflect rural women’s priorities in regional policy processes.				
	4.3.1: Evidence of a quality implementable gender strategy Baseline: Planned Target:	JPRWEE worked closely with MINAGRI on development of the 5year Agriculture Gender Strategy (AGS), the strategy is available.	JPRWEE has planned in its 2019/2020 workplan to support the dissemination and awareness creation of the agriculture gender strategy	5-year Agriculture Gender Strategy (AGS), the strategy is available.

Results	Indicators baselines/ targets	Achieved Indicator target	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
	<p>Indicator 4.3.2: Number of rural women that participated in dialogues on agriculture, rural development and land disaggregated by national, regional and global</p> <p>Baseline: 1285</p> <p>Target: 1627</p>	<p>103 women at National level</p> <p>126 farmers (90 women and 36 men) participated in the Agriculture Show</p>	<p>Rural Women were not targeted in the Dialogue</p> <p>126 farmers (90 women and 36 men) participated in the annual Agri-Show and exchanged ideas with other Exhibitors. A higher number compared to last year where 72 (58 women and 14) and the year before 50 farmers (40 women and 10 men) participated</p>	<p>Reports of IPs and Monitoring reports</p>

Story 1

“My wife has kept me on my feet, thanks to JP-RWEE-” says 68-year old Isiah Kanamugire

Thirty-five years ago, Kanamugire survived death by a whisker when while riding a bicycle, he was crushed by a speeding car sending him into unconsciousness; he would stay in comma for six months with many of his friends and relatives believing he would not come out alive. “I should have died. It is a miracle that I am alive today. It is hard to believe that I survived,” he recalls.

Although he survived, Kanamugire is not the man that he was before the accident; disabled in both legs, he uses clutches to walk and cannot manage heavy physical activities such as farming. Kanamugire and his 62-year old wife, Ancilla Mukantagara have eight children, five of whom are married. The other three are still in school. The couple lives together at their home in Ngera sector, Nyanza cell, Kibingo village, Nyaruguru district, in Rwanda’s Southern Province. “Today, I have my wife to thank, for keeping me on my feet. Thanks to her work with RWEE, she is able to take care of me and our children,” says Kanamugire.

Kanamugire’s wife, Ancilla is a member of the Kopabinya cooperative whose members are maize growers. The cooperative is one of the eight groups that work with the Joint Programme for the Rural Women Economic Empowerment (JP-RWEE) in Nyaruguru district.

Ancilla and her husband have a chunk of land on which she practices agriculture. The couple also has three cows which also contribute to the household’s income.

The RWEE Joint Programme has supported Ancilla’s Cooperative and its members in different ways, including trainings on best agricultural practices such as using organic manure, livestock management, post-harvest handling practices, building food-storage reservoirs as well as promoting group saving through the village saving and loan associations (VSLA).



Above: Kanamugire and his wife Ancilla at their home in Nyaruguru district.

“I have learned a lot from the different RWEE activities. I have been empowered to be a more productive farmer and how to take care of our livestock. This has put me in a position where I am able to take care of my household, considering my husband’s situation,” she says.

Ancilla says she has especially benefited a lot from the Cooperative’s saving schemes, to which she contributes as a member and as a result is able to borrow to support her home-based enterprises from which she says is able to support her household.

For instance, after a few months saving with the group, Ancilla says she was able to buy seven goats using a loan acquired from her cooperative; she later sold the goats and bought a cow. She now has three of them.

On the farm, yields were also improving thanks to the trainings from RWEE. “After putting in practice the lessons learnt from RWEE, I managed to harvest 800kg of maize; I used the post-harvest skills RWEE taught us, to take care of the grain as I waited for good market prices,” she narrates.

From the money obtained from the maize sales, the couple decided to invest Rwf150, 000 (\$ 165⁶) of it in buying another piece of land on which they are currently growing passion fruits.

“My job is to give her support as she takes care of things. She is in charge and our kids are happy at school and as a household, we are steadily prospering out of poverty. I encourage Rwandan men to support their wives to actively participate in economic empowerment programmes such as RWEE,” says Kanamugire.

Story 2:

A 38 years old, MUKAZAYIRE Francine is a member of a JP RWEE supported group named Twungubumwe Ngera. The programme started to support the group of 45members (36 women and 9 men) in 2018. Before that, Muakazayire used to be very shy un able to talk in front of people, especially in the presence of men. As a result of the training on governance and the role of women in leadership, she took the initiative to apply on the position of the secretary in the group. “I am now a member of the executive committee and I feel more empowered” she proudly narrates. I was trained on Post-Harvest handling and storage and I was also provided with drying and storage equipment. Before the programme, I could not store for home consumption, I could sell all the produce right at the harvest and it was not profitable at all. I have harvested 250kg of maize in season 2019 A, I sold 100kg on 200 frw/kg which earned me 200,000Rwf (\$220) I now have food which will sustain my family up to the next harvest.

⁶ UN Exchange rate at of August 2019



Above: Francine using the PHHS (Post-Harvest Handling and storage) Equipment provided by JPRWEE and Below: Francine programme Francine feeding the children of her village with milk

The training on nutrition was eye opening to me, I learnt that what we consume has an impact on our health, the education of our kids and life expectancy. Since then, I have changed my cooking habits to include more vegetables, animal proteins as much as possible. When the sector office requested for a person who could volunteer to host “Irerero “(early child development centre), I accepted. More than 30 children gather at my house with their mothers, we prepare a healthy meal and we get milk from government to feed the children. In that same platform, we discuss as women on how to implement good breast-feeding practices and habits as well as other hygiene matters required in the households.

Resources

The joint programme funds (USD 748, 881) for the period July 2018 to June 2019 were received in September 2019 and have funded implementation of the joint programme activities. USD147,000 core funds in support of the JP framework were received from IFAD HQ during the reporting period, in support of JPRWEE interventions in Rwanda, these funds specifically supported GALS programme and climate resilience in Kirehe, Ngoma, Nyaruguru, Rubavu and Musanze districts. Other resources in terms of human resource support from the 4 UN agencies was provided, for example heads of programmes and units, finance and procurement staff, communication staff and RCO team that specifically supported the process of JPRWEE proposal preparation into the SDF/UNIDAP, all provided technical and administrative support to the programme during the reporting period. JPRWEE farmers groups continued to utilize the 11.5HA of agriculture land worth USD 30,137 provided by the three districts of operation, more land acquisition (2Ha for Urumuri in Nyaruguru and 1 Ha Terimbera Mugore wa Sake in Ngoma district is under discussions.

Table: Cumulative Financial Status as of 31st August 2019

CATEGORY	FAO (US\$)	IFAD (US\$)	WFP (US\$)	UN WOMEN (US\$)
Contribution (Core)	-	237, 608	-	-
Swedish Cooperation Agency SIDA Contribution	178,844	164,780	277,532	178,844
Received in 2018	167, 144	154, 000	260, 593	167, 144
Balance CF from January	151,691		209, 894	146,217
Total Spent /Disbursed	119,693	72, 228	260,593	144,887
Outstanding Balance	1, 977	81, 772 ⁷	-	1,331

⁷ This big balance is due to a contribution from CORE and the delay to implement two activities of IFAD