

**ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARDS THE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF RURAL
WOMEN”
ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT
REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2019**

<p align="center">Programme Title & Project Number</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme Title: Accelerating Progress Towards the 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 beneficiaries for 2018-2019: 2,083 (1,713 women and 370 men)</p> <p>Indirect beneficiaries for 2018-2019: 8,957 (4,640 women and 4,317 men)</p> <p>Number of beneficiaries 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 Nkunganire Programme: Farm inputs Other Contributions (Core):</p> <p>TOTAL: US\$ 1,091,745</p>	<p align="center">Programme Duration</p> <p>Overall Duration: 5 Years</p> <p>Start Date: 15 09 2014</p> <p>End Date: 31 12 2021, subject to subsequent signing the Addendum</p>
<p align="center">Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.</p> <p>Assessment/Review - if applicable <i>please attach</i></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, No Date: 31/08/2019 JP RWEE Mid-Term Review, Yes, No Date: January to June 2019 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p align="center">Implementing Partners</p> <p>Government Partners: Ministry of Agriculture & Animal Resource (MINAGRI), Rwanda Cooperative Agency (RCA), Districts, Sectors Implementing NGOs: IMBUTO Foundation, INADES Formation Rwanda, CARE International, SAFE, YWCA, ADEPE, DUHAMIC ADRI</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

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List of Acronyms

ASWG	Agriculture Sector Working Group
A-WEAI	Abbreviated Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index
DFID	The UK Department for International Development
EDPRS	Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy
EICV4	Integrated Household Living Conditions Survey
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FtMA	Farm to Market Alliance
GALS	Gender Action Learning System
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
GoR	Government of Rwanda
GMO	Gender Monitoring Office
HDDS	Household Dietary Diversity Scale
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IGA	Income Generating Activity
IP	Implementing Partner
JADF	Joint Action Development Forum
JP-RWEE	Joint Programme on Rural Women's Economic Empowerment
KII	Key Informant Interview
MIGEPROF	Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion
MINAGRI	Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NISR	National Institute of Statistics Rwanda
NPPA	National Public Prosecution Authority of Rwanda
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
RCA	Rwanda Cooperative Agency
PHHS	Post-harvest Handling and Storage
PMF	Performance Management Framework
RGB	Rwanda Governance Board
RRG	Review Reference Group
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
Sida	Swedish International Development Cooperation

ToR	Terms of Reference
UCW	Unpaid Care Work
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEG	United Nations Evaluation Group
UN WOMEN	United Nations Entity for Gender equality and Women's Empowerment
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VSLA	Village Savings and Loans Association
WDDS	Women's Dietary Diversity Score
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

NARRATIVE REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Joint Programme on “Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women” (JP RWEE) has been implemented in seven countries globally including Rwanda by four UN Agencies (FAO, IFAD, WFP and UN WOMEN), generating synergies and capitalizing on each agency’s comparative advantage.

The goal of JP RWEE is to secure rural women’s livelihoods and rights in the context of sustainable development goals based on 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 programmes; and gender-responsive policy environment for the economic empowerment of rural women. In Rwanda, the programme was launched in 2013 but actual implementation started in 2015 following contributions from Norway and Sweden through the Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF). Initially designed for five years, the programme has gone through a series of extension and is scheduled to end in 2020.

Since 2017, the JP RWEE has focused on 18 cooperatives and supported them through capacity building on cooperative management, cooperative laws, leadership, financial management, food security, nutrition and Post-Harvest Handling and Storage (PHHS); all of which enhanced the groups’ ability to work as legally registered cooperatives and to understand the concept of working as business-oriented entities. For example, through the above-mentioned capacity building initiatives and market linkages efforts, the Twitezimbere Cooperative was able to sell 25 MT of maize for the first time to formal buyers, generating more than US\$ 5,500 in sales for its members. Moreover, 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 linkages to financial institutions to increase their capability to access finance.

Capacity building on GALS (Gender Action Learning System) in the context of climate change has been rolled out to champions including 157 women and 53 men, which helped them increase agriculture production through climate change mitigation and adaptation actions. Both women and men jointly planned their ‘vision journey’ to include activities dealing with climate change, including agroforestry practices for erosion control, making and using organic manure through livestock promotion and composting, using energy saving stoves to reduce cutting trees, roof water harvesting for watering kitchen gardens; considering agriculture seasons and using early-maturing varieties, preparation of tree nurseries and planting fruits trees and mulching.

GALS knowledge sharing of beneficiaries and local authorities took place through a joint study tour in Nyaruguru district and involved 115 champions (92 women and 23 men) and eight local authorities. Through the trainings on GALS, champions were able to change long-held mindsets on traditional gender roles; for example, men previously considered food preparation to be an activity exclusively for women, however after the GALS training, men began participating in cooking demonstrations in their villages, which was widely appreciated by local authorities as it increased family harmony.

The JP RWEE was a catalyst in supporting the initiation of a Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) survey, which was conducted in collaboration with MINAGRI and the UK Department for International Development (DFID). This index provided a baseline against which gender gains will be measured against on a regular basis.

An independent ‘programme review’ of JP RWEE was finalized in August 2019 and has already helped inform the next phase of the programme as well as complementary agency-specific initiatives. Qualitative evidence indicates that activities supported through JP RWEE are positively perceived by beneficiaries and stakeholders and notable progress has been made in increasing women’s production and access to finance, thereby increasing women’s experienced income and reducing financial dependency.

During the report period, the JP RWEE has supported two studies on “Women in Value Chain Finance” and “Gender Analysis of the Beans Value Chain” to better inform policy and programmatic design. The studies will be disseminated to all stakeholders in early 2020.

I. PURPOSE

The five-year 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:

1. Improved food and nutrition security;
2. Increased income to secure their livelihoods;
3. Enhanced leadership and participation in rural institutions and in shaping laws, policies and programs;
4. Gender responsive policy environment for the economic empowerment of rural women.

In Rwanda, the JP RWEE is implemented jointly by FAO, IFAD, WFP and UN Women, with WFP as lead agency. The Joint Programme is implemented in three districts and in 11 sectors; Kirehe district (Nyamugari, Kigarama, Kirehe, Gatore sectors), Ngoma district (Murama, Jarama and Sake sectors) and Nyaruguru district (Ngoma, Nyagisozi, Ngera and Cyahinda sectors).

The JP RWEE has been informed by Rwanda’s development priorities as outlined in ‘Vision 2020’ and ‘Vision 2050’, the National Strategy for Transformation (NST1 2018 – 2024), the Strategic Plan for the Transformation of Agriculture (PSTA4 2018 – 2024), the Rwanda National Gender Policy, and the recently updated Agriculture Gender Mainstreaming Strategy. These strategic documents outline interventions aimed at moving agriculture from a low production, subsistence-based to a market oriented, value-creating sector that improves rural incomes, addresses poverty and benefits women and men equally.

Furthermore, the JP RWEE workplan is fully incorporated into the Rwandan United Nations Development Assistance Plan 2018 – 2023 (UNDAP II); the four programme outcomes and are aligned to UNDAP II outcomes one thru six.

II. RESULTS

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 rolled out a series of interventions related to food security, climate adaptation, nutrition, Post-Harvest Handling and Storage (PHHS). Production was increased especially in kitchen gardens due to water availability at household level. The intervention was catalytic for other farmers who started to copy those good practices. The success of the rainwater harvesting support among beneficiaries and local authorities during the previous years led to a high demand by the community.

During the reporting period, a needs assessment to identify households to benefit from small scale irrigation system was jointly carried out by FAO and IFAD and the Rwanda Agriculture Board (RAB). The assessment was conducted in the three districts of the JP RWEE intervention and with three selected cooperatives. With this, 275 additional beneficiaries (238 women and 37 men) were identified and trained to roll out this activity. The major activities consisted of training beneficiaries on rainwater harvesting and technical management, providing them with water harvesting infrastructure which ensured equitable access to and control over water resources. The technology continues to increase resilience to droughts and beneficiaries can store water for other household uses reducing women and girls' unpaid work burden associated with water collection.

Beneficiaries from 32 householders benefited from mobile plastic tanks. The reason for this choice of mobile plastic tanks was that these beneficiaries did not own their houses so they could not construct a permanent tank; moreover, some households were vulnerable to the extent that they could not afford the required contribution to construct permanent rainwater harvesting system (RWHS). In order to mitigate this challenge, and in collaboration with local authority together with beneficiaries, mobile plastic tanks were facilitated instead.



In addition to rainwater harvesting for agriculture and household uses, 120 beneficiaries (100 women and 20 men) were trained on agroforestry and given knowledge on tree nursery maintenance, as well as being provided with planting material for agroforestry and fruit trees. Through this intervention three model nurseries were established (one in each district) to enhance beneficiary capacity in agroforestry technologies. Knowledge on tree nursery maintenance including grafting was transferred to project beneficiaries. Over 30,000 seedlings were produced in the three nurseries and were distributed to beneficiaries and other community members for planting from October 2019.



Additional efforts were applied to improve agricultural practices during the period under review, which resulted in an improvement in production techniques. Moreover, beneficiaries were trained in Farmer Field Schools (FFS), whereby 18 farmer field School facilitators were identified, trained and supported to coach a further 20 FFSs at during the 2019 B season.

The greenhouse of Kubinya Cooperative (in Kirehe district) which was damaged by the wind has been reconstructed in a better location which guarantees its better protection. Reflecting the better economic status of support cooperatives, Twitezimbere Kiyonza was able to contribute 1,500,000 Rwf (US\$ 1,634) to the

Figure 1: Beneficiaries maintaining a tree nursery

repairs of their greenhouse which reflected the cooperative's ability to sustainably manage the green house beyond the JP RWEE.



Figure 2: FFS beans model garden in good condition for a JP RWEE Women group in Ngera Sector, Nyaruguru district

Knowledge, skills and capacity were transferred to 325 farmers (273 women and 52 men) in different cooperatives supported by the project around topics such as labour-saving materials, environmental management and efficiency use of energy. The trainings included how to construct and use improved wood saving stoves, rainwater harvesting technologies and use of

biogas. The common benefit of all these technologies is to save labour, time allocated to the activities and environmental conservation in reducing the felling of trees, reducing water run-off and erosion. By the end of the reporting period, 1,092 households were served with energy saving stoves.



Figure 3: Terimbere Mugore Wa Sake receiving energy saving stoves and shelling machines

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

Capacity strengthening on PHHS, a Training of Trainers (ToT) approach was used where 27 participants (18 women and nine men) were trained and these trained 911 fellow farmers. Moreover, 911 tarpaulins and 1,822 hermetic bags were distributed to the 911 participants.

Additionally, JP RWEE was able to source 130 additional tarpaulins in Nyaruguru district through linking farmers to MINAGRI's post-harvest and Agri-business support project (PASP), reflecting synergies with existing ongoing initiatives. This activity was completed in collaboration with Nyagisozi local authority and benefited not only RWEE cooperative members but also the broader community in general.

Maize drying halls were provided to three cooperatives namely Urumuri and Abahangudushya (Nyaruguru) and Tuzamurane Kigoma (Ngoma district). These drying sheds have approximately 25 MT capacity each and will

support 489 farmers (405 women and 84 men) in their post-harvest activities drying, shelling and sorting of maize, beans, sorghum and other crops. to preserve their quality and mitigate post-harvest losses increasing quantity and quality of food for home consumption and for sale.

Farmers were educated on aflatoxin abatement to improve grain quality and avoid adverse health effects caused by exposure to aflatoxin. 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. Hermetic bags allow safe storage of grains for several months without use of chemicals.



Figure 5: Above left; Demonstration of the use of hermetic bags and right Distribution of tarpaulins to JP RWEE beneficiaries

A 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 on these new practices. For increased understanding and sustainability, 70 brochures with nutrition education information were distributed to the lead farmers and charts were hung on walls of all 18 cooperative offices, to ensure that farmers are reminded of the concepts of healthy balanced diets and nutrition each time they have a meeting.



Figure 6 1: Farmers in Jarama sector, Ngoma District receiving feeds for their chicken

In addition to trainings, 1,860 beneficiaries were supported to produce crops/livestock which give opportunity to access nutrients (bio fortified crops, fruit trees and chicken). Kitchen gardens were promoted in all household assisted.

As part of their GALS vision road journeys, 151 beneficiaries (112 women and 39 men) committed to build kitchen gardens, which led to them benefitting from additional vegetable production has and has helped diversify their diets with more nutritious products, while at the same time reducing the cost of buying vegetables on the market which freed up additional resources to invest further in their livelihoods. Over 654 beneficiaries (514 women and 140 men) sold 4,796 kg of tomatoes from January to June, generating 813,000 RWF (US\$ 886).

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 around this output addressed reducing financial exclusion, increasing income, and enhancing access to savings mechanisms. The program worked with 2,361 farmers (1,986 women and 375 men) grouped into 20 farmer groups and VSLA (Village Savings and Loan Associations) to strengthen their financial literacy skills and facilitate farmers accessing adequate, affordable and appropriate financial products to improve their household livelihoods. Each one of the 20 VSLA groups was also given a Savings Kit for more efficiency in village savings culture. The Savings Kit include a cash box including keys, change coins, saving records or register for each group to facilitate group savings. To increase efficiency and successful leverage, 25 Village Agents (17 women and eight men) were identified and trained to form and train VSLA groups on VSL methodology, financial literacy and to facilitate groups' access to formal financial services from four identified microfinance institutions¹ that operate in the three targeted districts. The selected agents were trained as trainers on VSLA methodology and 70 VSLAs received training in 2019. Field monitoring has shown a high-level interest of members with over 2,000 VSLA members, of which 79% are women, reached and trained.

The programme also supported peer to peer learning exchange sessions organized in three rounds in the districts of JP RWEE in August 2019. The sessions were in the context of mutual learning, exchange of knowledge and experience for agribusiness in the rural area, among women JP RWEE beneficiary cooperative members. In total, 146 members from beneficial cooperatives participated. These included 48 women from six cooperatives of Kirehe district, 49 women from four cooperatives of Ngoma district, 49 women from eight cooperatives of Nyaruguru district and five selected peers with more experience and solid success stories were gathered to learn directly from one another. Emerging lessons learnt have been identified for their integration into wide-achievement of goals and targets set by the JP RWEE.

In partnership with Imbuto, Inkomoko and Sevota, entrepreneurship trainings were conducted to build on the capacities of cooperatives, reaching a total of 1,662 women. The trainings included financial literacy, business management and business development in terms of developing business project proposals. The cooperatives gained valuable skills to produce a bankable and viable business plan which were submitted for approval. After assessment of the business plans, 18 cooperatives were found profitable and with high potential to improve women's livelihoods and their families'. Each business plan was funded through Imbuto Foundation with a grant of 1,014,400 RWF (US\$1,088). Additionally, the JP RWEE funded coaching services on business management for selected women farmers owned businesses for strengthening their skills through hands-on technical support.

Additionally, following the Participatory Gender Review (PGR) exercise, 208 GALS champions (156 women and 52 men) have increased their saving on bank account, among them, 53 champions (32 women and 21 men) had bank accounts that were not active before the training on GALS. As a result of the GALS trainings, they have able to reactivate their accounts and are depositing money from informal saving groups in their community and money raised from their agriculture production. This is additionally helping to deal with the adverse effects of climate change.

As part of the efforts to alleviate women and girls' unpaid work burden associated with firewood collection, 120 beneficiaries (80 women and 40 men) participated in a ToT on the construction, utilization and maintenance of Labour-Saving Technologies (LST), including energy-saving stoves. 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 previous years, implementation of the 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

¹ Duterimbere, Urwego Opportunity Bank (UOB), Vision Fund Rwanda (VFR) and Reseau Inter-diocesan de Microfinance (RIM)

for packaging with cooperative logo and moisture-meter and ed. Their work regularly also assisted with power connectivity.

A one-day visit at the 14th national Agricultural show was organized and 126 farmers (88 women and 38 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 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. Beneficiaries have been equipped with leadership skills which have boosted their confidence and public speaking ability. In total 1,043 have benefited (871 women and 172 men).

Local officials contributed by providing public premises where training sessions were conducted from. To engage men, 111 men participated in this activity and provided with skills on Men's engage approach towards the empowerment of women and girls. As a result, men are now supporting and facilitating women to play leadership roles in various community forums.

Inades Formation Rwanda (a local NGO), conducted training on cooperative governance, cooperative laws and cooperative management skills for 79 farmers (55 women and 24 men) and eight 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 informal groups were able to comply with Rwanda Cooperative Agency (RCA) requirements to apply for legal registration as formal cooperatives. 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 men) representing 8 new groups/cooperatives were trained on financial management, allowing them to become more effective and efficient managers. Leaders from other groups that were previously trained were also coached on the same topics.

Additionally, 600 beneficiaries (500 women and 100 men) from 18 groups participated in leadership discussions to encourage higher participation within their communities. 340 out of the 600 participants (300 women and 40 men) of panel discussions to sensitize and mobilise women on leadership. These took it upon themselves to take up leadership responsibilities in the next election of local leaders. Additionally, 214 local authority staff (130 women and 84 men) were trained on gender responsive implementation of land and property laws.



Representatives from all 18 supported groups/cooperatives were facilitated to participate in study tours to exchange and learn from more advanced cooperatives. 60 participants (43 women and 17 men) organized in two groups (three people per cooperative: a board member, a supervisory committee member and an ordinary member) took part to those visits. The visited cooperatives were Kojyamugi in Gisagara District for cooperative from the South, where farmers learnt the post-harvest handling and storage practices, Rwanda Bureau of Standards (RBS) certification process and marketing techniques. Farmers from Kirehe and Ngoma districts visited Covamis, Wisigara Ntsinda cooperatives and Prodev, a company manufacturing animal feeds with maize and other raw materials procured mainly from local farmers. The farmers learnt the modern methods of vegetable growing including irrigation as a strategy to grow vegetables in dry season, market linkage, post-harvest techniques and buyers' requirements for maize and process of selling collectively maize to Prodev, a big animal feed factory in Eastern Province. After the visit, the farmers were committed to initiate and improve vegetables enterprises and handling the maize harvest to meet the quality standards required for good price on market.

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 joint study visit on GALS was organized in Nyaruguru District and 115 beneficiaries (including 92 women and 23 men) from Kamonyi, Rubavu, Kirehe, and Ngoma Districts shared their testimonies, especially how their living conditions changed because of using GALS methodology. Experience sharing was also on women participation in cooperative leadership, community leadership, and also in decision-making and advocacy.

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

Output 4.1: Greater availability of tools and data to track progress in the economic empowerment of rural women

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 reporting period. During the implementation of the 2020 work plan, support will be provided to disseminate and create awareness of this strategy among key sector actors.

The Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) started being implemented. Through technical and financial support, the JP RWEE contributed to the finalization of the WEAI methodology. The WEAI tool will

help to measure the achievements of the Strategic Plan for Agriculture Transformation (PSTA4) regarding women empowerment.

The initiative was complemented by the finalization of two studies on women in value chain finance and the gender analysis in bean value chain and going forward, the findings will continue to be used and disseminated. The first study examined how women participate to and benefit from chain finance as well as the challenges they face in that domain and how they can be addressed while the second looked at the role and the participation of women and their relative benefits from bean value chains to propose how challenges can be overcome.

The JP RWEE played an active role in the recent successful revision of the five year Gender Mainstreaming Strategy (MINAGRI, 2019), which focuses on five 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 behaviour change at community and household level. In its 2020 workplan, the JP has planned to support the dissemination of this strategy to CSOs and the private sector with an aim to increase uptake/implementation and enhance gender mainstreaming across the sector.

Similarly, the knowledge management and communication products were produced capitalize on the results achieved during the previous phases of programme implementation and will disseminated during the 2020 implementation period. These were made by a magazine, a brochure and a series of videos.

Output 4.2: An enabling environment is promoted to reflect rural women's priorities in regional policy processes

The JP RWEE supported 38 farmers (10 men and 28 women) to participate to the Gender Accountability Day celebrated in Nyaruguru district, Cyahinda sector at the National level on 30-31 October 2019. These farmers came from eight JP RWEE supported cooperatives from Nyaruguru district and each cooperative was represented by four farmers. Six farmers exhibited their produce while 32 others visited the event for exchange and learning.

The Minister of Justice who was the guest of honour was introduced to the JP RWEE and appreciated GALS methodology so much and highlighted that the methodology shows the impact at the household level and there is a need for scaling it up so that it may reach many people.

Challenges

The implementation timeframe for the 2018/2019 Joint Programme work plan was under-estimated, 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. Furthermore, the implementation of the next phase could not start before end of 2019 due to funding issues. As other JP RWEE countries, Rwanda was requested to adjust the implementation period to January-December 2020. Fortunately, the funding for that period was confirmed before the end of the report period.

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); the problem was finally resolved, and activities were completed.

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 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 women. This will be conducted in 2020 through the 'men engage approach' aimed at engaging men to embrace the empowerment of women.

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. The mitigation measure taken to address this was effort from JP RWEE 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 involving big common infrastructure and to a certain extent 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 and is expected to yield positive results.

As far as the cropping production is concerned, the agriculture season 2019B (planting in February/March 2019) was not good for farmers due to weather events (rain shortage), especially in Eastern Province. Conversely, the 2020A (planting in September/October 2019) was characterised by more rain than normal which negatively affected certain crops such as beans.

Women in Rwanda do more unpaid care work than their male counterparts. For example, data from the labour force survey of 2018 shows that women spend on average 25.3 hours per week on unpaid care compared with 13.5 hours for their male counterparts. This limits women's participation in productive and paid economic activities as well as in political and leadership spheres. This indicates that also JP RWEE beneficiaries are affected by unpaid care and going forward more efforts will be applied to engage to participate in unpaid care work as well as supporting women to participate in income generation activities.

The absence of modern standardized grading requires the quality of production to be manually checked. As a result, beans and maize are quite often packed and unpacked during marketing channels, creating additional labour 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 JP RWEE 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.

Access to land is a critical factor in empowering women to play an active role in economic development as equal rights to land use, management and control over production are required. Discriminatory mindsets however still hamper women's ability to gain full control and utilisation of land and other productive assets. Capacity building on laws governing land rights will continue in 2020 so that there is an increased understanding amongst rural women regarding their land inheritance rights Existing agricultural policies, strategies like the Strategic Plan for Agriculture Transformation 2018-2024 (PSTA4), the Five Year Agriculture Gender Strategy 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 JP RWEE planned

in the 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 JP RWEE will put more specific efforts and advocacy actions from the agriculture value chain operators, development actors and government partners.

Lessons Learned

Peer to Peer learning exchange sessions provide a very good opportunity for rural women farmers to exchange knowledge, experience, innovations and challenges in a user-friendly language and almost similar context which help them to gain expertise that they would not otherwise acquire. The scale up of this practice is therefore necessary for reaching a high number of women farmers.

The capacity development for rural women farmers must follow a value chain approach to yield more and sustainable results. As an illustration from UN Women's JP RWEE interventions rural women entrepreneurship capacity enhancement followed three pronged approaches from traditional classroom-based training to business plans development completion, financing of best bankable business plans and continuous coaching accompaniment by a professional business advisory and coaching service provider.

GALS is a helpful methodology to support the development of households and it played key role in the sharing of responsibilities/role between women and men, and as a result, men are no longer thinking that there are activities reserved only for women because of working together with men and women, agriculture production is increased especially for maize crops and vegetables.

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 women JP RWEE 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 solid success stories were gathered to learn directly from one another.⁴ A video of the women's success stories, human-interest stories and peer-to-peer learning sessions was created.

To help develop 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%) did not have regular markets for their products and these cooperatives also had low level of entrepreneurship and business skills⁵.

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. The follow-up activity, business management advisory services is underway

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 JP RWEE).

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 Imbutu Foundation and is available for reference

to each group on how the money could be used in a beneficial 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 targets, saving for investment and business mindset, records keeping, as well as facilitate them to register at local communities (at least at the cell level which is the second lowest administrative entity).⁶

A review of JP RWEE concluded in 2019 identified a number of positive elements of the programme, as well as a few areas for improvement. Despite initial challenges in overall coordination during the onset of JP RWEE, the review recognized the significant improvement in coordination during this reporting period, as well as the enhance collaboration of UN agencies engaged in the programme. Additionally, the review recognized the systematic documentation and analysis of the specific context faced by the marginalized groups enrolled in JP RWEE, but also found that a stronger focus needs to be placed on monitoring and evaluation throughout implementation. Finally, there was ample evidence that JP RWEE contributed to rural women's improved livelihoods, but also stressed the need to further include men in programme implementation going into 2020.

Partnerships:

In an effort to improve partnerships, networking, and visibility, the JPJP RWEE has established a relationship with the Rwanda Governance Board (RGB) through the five JP RWEE groups (Abadahigwa ba Gatore, Tugaruke munzira, Kubinya, Twaguke Murama) that are implementing the chicken project supported by RGB through SAFE, the programme Implementing Partner (IP) in Kirehe. When RGB supported beneficiaries, the JP RWEE partners and beneficiaries introduced the GALS methodology to the RGB team. As a result, the 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 improving partnerships and visibility of JP RWEE, a partnership was initiated with the Hinga Weze project funded by USAID, which has a similar component related to rural women empowerment. It is expected that this collaboration will be operationalized during the JP RWEE implementation period by visiting Hinga Weze areas of intervention of the two projects and continuing to share experiences and good practices with each other.

Six JP RWEE programme staff members (five women and one man) were trained in agribusiness leadership through a partnership between IFC and WFP, aimed at building capacity of women in leadership and decision-making, enhancing governance of formal cooperatives and the promoting of VSLAs. The intention of these trainings is to mainstream the acquired skills into all JP RWEE interventions.

One staff from the participating agencies participated in the Women's Empowerment-Farm Business School (WE-FBS) in Nairobi during November 2019, organized by FAO. The skills acquired mostly on the tools used by WE-FBS will be shared with all the implementing partners (IPs) and best practices will be adopted during the 2020 implementation period so that the implementing partners can extend the skills to their respective beneficiaries.

JP RWEE also forged partnerships with different stakeholders including Imbuto Foundation, Care International, Inkomoko among others. These helped to create synergies and information sharing platforms and it also created opportunities among partners, but more importantly created advantages that are enhancing entrepreneurship, business skills and access to finance for farmer rural women.

In January 2019, the Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC), chaired by the Minister of MINAGRI and co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator (RCO), brought together the four participating UN agencies representatives (WFP, FAO, IFAD and UNWOMEN) and staff together with implementing partner NGOs to discuss the JP RWEE proposal to be part of the UNDAP Joint Programme to potentially benefit sustainable development fund (SDF) and to be recognised as a joint program under UNDAP 2018-2023. This activity was coordinated by UN Resident Coordinator's Office (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

⁶ Cell is an administrative entity under Province, District, and sector. A cell is made of villages.

representatives and by the time of finalizing this report, an initial allocation of US\$ 569,684 from SDF has been approved.

Sustainability

JP RWEE Cooperatives, in addition to subsidies as farm inputs, continued efforts to engage the Ministry of Agriculture (MINAGRI) through the Smart Nkunganire scheme where farmers are facilitated to obtain subsidies on fertilizers, improved seeds, pesticides, small scale irrigation and other agriculture items and inputs. This resulted in more support for postharvest handling and storage materials; 130 tarpaulins were distributed to Bimpinduka and COTECO (Cooperative Terimbere Coko) cooperatives in Nyaruguru districts. This collaboration is expected to grow in the coming period in support of sustaining what the joint programme's achievements.



Figure 7 Tarpaulins distribution to JP RWEE beneficiaries in collaboration with MINAGRI & PASP project, Nyagisozi sector local authority were also present

The JP RWEE 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 collaborations were established with local level authorities through mainly the Joint Action Development Forum (JADF). Officers at local Government (mostly JADF officer, sector executive secretaries and sector agriculture officers) have been increasingly involved in the JP RWEE activities with respect to activity planning, participation in capacity building sessions both as participants and facilitators (leading some of the training sessions). 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 showcase their products and learn from other cooperatives. Knowledge management products were collected and informed the communication of the JP RWEE. Products developed in 2019 include a series of videos, a magazine and a brochure

Coordination and Synergy:

The JPRWE's synergy among the four participating UN agencies continued to strengthen 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 resulted 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:

Indicators baselines/ targets	Achieved Indicator target	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Outcome 1 Rural women have Improved food and nutrition security			
<p>Indicator 1.1: Percentage increase in agricultural production of women farmers in targeted areas disaggregated by crop production and livestock</p> <p>Baseline: 61% Target: 75%</p> <p>Indicator 1.2: Dietary diversity disaggregated by meals per day and food composition</p> <p>Baseline: 61% Target: 75%</p> <p>Indicator 1.3: Proportion of undernourished population in targeted areas</p> <p>Baseline: 37% Target: 30%</p>	35%	Outcome level data is planned for collection during the 2020 implementation period	Comprehensive food security & Vulnerability assessment report 2018
Output 1.1 Rural women have increased access to and control over resources, assets and services critical for their food and nutrition security			
<p>Indicator 1.1.1: Number of rural women who accessed nutrition training and nutrition Information, Education and Communication materials</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 2,083 farmers (1,713 women; 370 men)</p>	2,060 beneficiaries (1,697 women; 363 men)		Training and monitoring reports hours and observations at household level
<p>Indicator:1.1.2: Number of rural women led groups utilizing climate smart technologies</p>	654 (514 women and 140 men) from five groups/cooperatives	More rural women benefited due to increased targeting during the year	Implementing partner's quarterly reports

Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 516 (390 women and 126 men)			
Indicator 1.1.3: Number of Cooperatives supported with small-scale irrigation Baseline: 2 Planned Target: 6	8 cooperatives (11,000 women; 278 men)	This was a shared activity between FAO & IFAD, delays in implementation by IFAD led but end of December activities have been accomplished by IFAD	List of selected cooperatives for small scale irrigation activity had 6
Indicator 1.1.4: Number of rural women in targeted areas utilizing improved production techniques (% change over baseline) Baseline: 30% Target: 60%	619 women	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.
Indicator 1.1.5: Number of households with small livestock in targeted areas Baseline: 167 Target: 600 HH Livestock	600 HH (420 Women-headed and 180 men-headed) received chicken.	Other types of livestock did not fit in the budget	Observation at the field, Field reports and IPs reports
Output 1.2: Rural women have greater capacity to enhance and control local food security reserves and their production			
Indicator 1.2.1 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 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	The target covers the final year of the joint programme phase one	Records from Farmers' groups agroforestry was reinforced

<p>Indicator 1.2.2: Number of women-led and managed local food security reserves in target groups disaggregated by household level and cooperatives levels</p> <p>Baseline: 1,207 women-led food security reserves Target: 1,341 women-led food security reserves</p>	<p>Status: 1,713 women-led food security reserves</p>	<p>WFP provided extra PHHS equipment at no cost hence more women benefited</p>	<p>Field visits and IPs reports</p> <p>The equipment enabled farmers to reduce harvest losses and stored more food which contributed to improved household food security.</p>
<p>Indicator 1.2.3: Number of rural women accessing innovative food processing units (% of supported women under the project)</p> <p>Baseline: 16% of total supported women Target: 30% of total supported women</p>	<p>483 rural women (28%)</p>	<p>218 rural women from 3 cooperatives have been supported with tomato processing while 265 women from 2 cooperative are into maize, cassava and sorghum processing</p>	<p>Monitoring reports</p>
<p>Outcome 2 Rural women have increased income to secure their livelihoods</p>			
<p>Indicator 2.1: Variation of women/ women groups/ cooperatives income generated from their sales to WFP and other markets (% change of baseline)</p> <p>Baseline: 39% Planned Target: 50%</p> <p>Indicator 2.2: Proportion of rural women in targeted areas with financial independence over their agriculture production incomes (income domain of the WEAI)</p> <p>Baseline: 31% Planned Target: 62%</p>		<p>Outcome level data is planned for collection during the 2020 implementation period</p>	
<p>Output 2.1: Rural women have enhanced entrepreneurship skills and value chains to access markets for their products</p>			
<p>Indicator 2.1.1: Number of rural women in targeted areas accessing finance from financial institutions (by SACCO, MFI, Banks, VSLs...)</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> <p>Records on accessibility from Financial services by VSL group members are yet to be obtained.</p>

Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 1,000 (700 women and 300 men)	methodology, financial literacy and linkage.		
Indicator 2.1.2: Number of rural women in targeted areas accessing credit disaggregated by individual, women groups and women cooperatives (% change over baseline) Baseline: 300 women 24% (Women in Cooperatives) 35% (individual women) Target by 2018: (465) 55%	473 women (57.6%) 909 (79%) women in cooperatives	No variance 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.	Post training assessment report, field visits and Implementing Partners' reports Note: These Credit records are currently from VSLAs
Indicator 2.1.3: Number of rural women trained in Entrepreneurship skills and value chains Baseline: 70 Target: 1,200 (900 women and 300 men)	360 beneficiaries (289 women and 71 men) participated in entrepreneurship ToT training	The trainings were designed as training of trainers (ToT), the trained members have cascaded the training to other members however monitoring of the knowledge transfer to the cooperatives will take place in the upcoming phase	Attendance records of training sessions for ToTs.
Indicator: Number of rural women's cooperatives and women groups with agriculture production sales to markets Baseline: 2 Target: 10	10 women groups (935 women)	10 (935 women) out of 18 groups made sales 8 new groups were not able to make sales due to low production capacity	Records of farmers' groups and monitoring reports
Output 2.2: Rural women have increased access to decent wage employment opportunities			
Indicator 2.2.1 : Number of women employed who entered the formal labor market or initiated self-employment activities Baseline: 1,000	1,662 women	Total businesses and women involved in private sector and own business are under inventory and will be	

Target: 2,500		reported in the annual report.	
Indicator 2.2.2: Number of women involved in agro-processing, and other value adding or innovative agribusiness activities. Baseline: 71 Target: 920	255 women from 2 cooperatives (265 women) are in maize processing, and 114 women from 3 cooperatives are in tomato processing	Support of the JP RWEE 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 3.1: % of rural women elected as representatives in rural councils / local authorities Baseline: 43% Planned Target: 60% Indicator 3.2: % of Producers Organizations led by women Baseline: 78% Planned Target: 85% Indicator 3.3: Proportion of rural women in targeted areas with active leadership and decision-making roles Baseline: 43% Planned Target: 50%	Staus: 83%		
Output 3.1: Rural women, including young women have enhanced confidence and leadership skills to participate in local governance			
Indicator 3.1.1: % of rural women (of all women beneficiaries) who are candidates in rural councils' elections Baseline: 30%	Rural women are participating as village leaders, National Women Council Members, and other	More specific data is expected from the Review report and active participation is expected in the next phase following the	Local council records and Monitoring reports.

Target: 50%	roles but actual data is yet to be collected	recent capacity building sessions leadership. To be able to compete for a local council position is critical... this indicator tracks how many of the JP RWEE women qualified as candidates for any of the local council positions	
Output 3.2: Rural women have greater organizational capacities to form, sustain and participate into POs, cooperatives and unions			
Indicator 3.2.1: Number of informal rural women's groups who join formally registered POs, cooperatives and unions (% change from baseline) Baseline:6 Target: 14	Nine 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 JP RWEE, have legal cooperative status, 3 are at district registration level while 6 are still at the Sector level
Indicator 3.2.2: 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	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 3.3.1: 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 3.3.2: Proportion 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 Target: 45% of Women Coalition	Data not collected in the reporting period; planned for 2020	This data to be collected	
Output 3.4: Rural women, including young women have enhanced awareness on their rights in a more supportive community/local environment.			
Indicator 3.4.1: Number of local authority officials that participated in capacity building sessions on rights Baseline: 0 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
Indicator 3.4.2: Proportion of rural women and young women participating in community listening clubs Baseline: 30% Target: 60%	204 women	Limited resources to have more participants. There are no 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 210 Women and men participated in GALS training in Kirehe, Ngoma and Nyaruguru districts IPs quarterly, and annual reports
Indicator 3.4.3: Number of women and men trained on GALS methodology, and scaling up the methodology in community	210 (157 women and 53 men) trained		
Outcome 4: A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women			
Indicator 4.1: Proportion of government resources and donor funding allocated to programmes benefitting rural women Baseline: -			

Planned Target: 30%			
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 4.1.1: 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 4.1.2: 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			
Indicator 4.2.1: "Women's empowerment in agriculture index" (WEAI) is piloted or mainstreamed in National	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 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	JP RWEE worked closely with MINAGRI on development of the 5year	JP RWEE has planned in its 2019/2020 workplan to support the dissemination and	5-year Agriculture Gender Strategy (AGS), the strategy is available.

	Agriculture Gender Strategy (AGS), the strategy is available.	awareness creation of the agriculture gender strategy	
Indicator 4.3.2: Number of rural women that participated in dialogues on agriculture, rural development and land disaggregated by national, regional and global Baseline: 1,285 Target: 1,627	103 women at National level 126 farmers (90 women and 36 men) participated in the Agriculture Show	Rural Women were not targeted in the Dialogue 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	Reports of IPs and Monitoring reports

Resources

The JP RWEE funds (US\$ 748, 881) for the period July 2018 to June 2019 were received in September 2018 and have funded the implementation of the joint programme activities. An additional US\$147,000 of funds in support of the JP RWEE framework were received from IFAD HQ during the reporting period. These funds specifically supported GALS programme and climate resilience initiatives in Kirehe, Ngoma, Nyaruguru, Rubavu and Musanze districts. Other resources in terms of human resource support from the four participating agencies was provided, including support from heads of programmes, finance and procurement staff, communication staff and RCO team that specifically supported the process of JP RWEE proposal preparation into the SDF/UNDAP. JP RWEE farmers groups continued to utilize the 11.5HA of agriculture land worth US\$ 30,137 provided by the three districts of operation, and additional land acquisition (2 Ha for Urumuri in Nyaruguru and 1 Ha Terimbere Mugore wa Sake in Ngoma district) is under discussion.

Table 2: Cumulative Financial Status 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 2019	167, 144	154, 000	260, 593	167, 144
Total Spent /Disbursed	167, 144	154, 000	260, 593	167, 144
Outstanding Balance	0	0	0	0

Success Stories

Story 1

“My wife has kept me on my feet, thanks to the Joint Programme on Accelerating Progress toward the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women (JP RWEE)-” says 68-year old Isiah Kanamugire

Thirty-five years ago, Kanamugire survived death by a whisker 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 live together at their home in the 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 JP 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 JP RWEE in Nyaruguru district.

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

The JP RWEE 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).

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



“I have learned a lot from the different JP 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 cows.

On the farm, yields were also improving thanks to the trainings from JP RWEE. “After putting in practice the lessons learnt from JP RWEE, I managed to harvest 800 kg of maize; I used the post-harvest skills JP 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 Rwf 150, 000 (US\$ 165⁷) 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 JP 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 45 members (36 women and nine men) in 2018. Before that, Mukazayire used to be very shy unable 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 250 kg of maize in season 2019 A, I sold 100 kg on 200 frw/kg which earned me 200,000Rwf (US\$ 220) I now have food which will sustain my family up to the next harvest.

⁷ UN Exchange rate as of August 2019



Left: Francine using the PHHS (Post-Harvest Handling and storage) Equipment provided by JP RWEE **Right:** 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.”