



**ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARDS THE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF RURAL WOMEN  
BI-ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT  
REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 30 JUNE 2020**

<b>Programme Title &amp; Project Number</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programme Title: Accelerating Progress Toward Economic Empowerment of Rural Women in Rwanda</li> <li>• MPTF Office Project Reference Number:<sup>1</sup> 00092006</li> </ul>
<b>Participating Organization(s)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FAO, IFAD, UNWOMEN &amp; WFP.</li> </ul>
<b>Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</b>
Total approved budget as per project document: MPTF Contribution: 900,000 USD
Government Contribution <i>(if applicable)</i> Other Contributions (donors) <i>(if applicable)</i> : SDF: <b>987,875 USD</b>
<b>TOTAL: 1,887,875 USD</b>
<b>Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.</b>
Assessment/Review - if applicable <i>please attach</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: <i>dd.mm. yyyy</i> Mid-Term Evaluation Report – <i>if applicable please attach</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: <i>dd.mm. yyyy</i>

<b>Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results</b>
<b>Rwanda:</b> Districts:(Kirehe, Ngoma, Nyaruguru, Muhanga, Gakenke, Nyagatare districts)
The strategic result is to secure rural women’s livelihoods and rights in the context of sustainable development and the SDGs.
<b>Implementing Partners</b>
INADES Formation Rwanda, (YWCA) Young Women Christian Association, ADEPE (Association pour le développement du Peuple), SAFE (Sustainable Agriculture for Food Security, and Economic Development), CVI (Community Vision Initiative) Duterimbere NGO and Imbuto Foundation.
<b>Programme Duration</b>
Overall Duration 8 YEARS  Start Date <i>(15 10 2012)</i> End Date <i>(31 12 2021)</i>
<b>Report Submitted By</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Name: <b>Edith Heines</b></li> <li>o Title: Country Director and Representative</li> <li>o Participating Organization (Lead): WFP</li> <li>o Email address: <a href="mailto:Edith.Heines@wfp.org">Edith.Heines@wfp.org</a></li> </ul>



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

## NARRATIVE REPORT

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the implementation period of 2018/2019, the JP RWEE supported 18 cooperatives, increasing to 19 when one cooperative in Kirehe district split into two, in the three districts of project intervention (Ngoma, Kirehe and Nyaruguru) with a total number of direct beneficiaries of 2,083 (1,713 women and 370 men). During the reporting period, an inventory and assessment of beneficiaries was conducted in all 19 groups/cooperatives and found out that there are currently 1,986 beneficiaries/programme participants (1,653 women and 333 men). The assessment found that some programme beneficiaries were not active and more follow-up will continue to be done and documentation of the reasons as to why people leave the groups/cooperatives will be carried out.

During the current implementation period, the COVID-19 pandemic crisis is still present and affecting the livelihoods of beneficiaries, causing a delay in the implementation of JP RWEE activities. A joint rapid field assessment that was conducted towards the end of June 2020, showed that livelihoods of beneficiaries have been seriously affected, as well as gender relations in households and communities. Kirehe district in Eastern Province, one of the districts of JP RWEE implementation bordering with Tanzania, has been identified as a cluster for high COVID-19 infections due to crossing cargo truck drivers.

Furthermore, during the period of COVID-19 restrictions, some of the programme interventions were scaled up to benefit some of the most vulnerable women groups/cooperatives in the districts of Muhanga, Gakenke and Nyagatar. Twelve cooperatives/groups composed of 1,181 members (927 women and 254 men) were supported with improved seeds, which is expected to contribute to their improved livelihoods and ability to cope with the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19. In addition, activities oriented towards increased awareness on good practices to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and the distribution of hygienic kits (including protective face masks, hand washing facilities (Kandagirukarabe) and soaps) took place in June 2020. A total of 5,000 beneficiaries (3,435 women and 1,565 men) received hygienic kits and over 10,000 masks were distributed.

Support was also provided to ensure continued productivity through the distribution of agricultural inputs during the dry seasons (season C starting from June to mid-September) and trainings in vegetable farming techniques to increase the income of women farmers. Focus has also been on increasing cooperatives access to markets and financial services as many reported difficulties in accessing markets and clients during COVID-19. Through linkages to markets, one cooperative (COAFGA-Cooperative des Agriculteurs des fruits de Gakenke) could increase their income and be linked to a micro-finance institution (RIM- Réseau Interdiocésain de microfinance) who granted a loan of 4 million RWF (4,255.3 \$), allowing the farmers to purchase land to scale up their business and production.

### I. 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***

Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19, some of the agriculture activities were able to continue. The irrigation equipment provided by the JP RWEE in 2019 continued to be used in the dry season between June to mid-September for irrigation and more production is expected in August-September 2020.

New beneficiaries (Groups/Cooperatives) to be supported with water harvesting and small-scale irrigation for this year (2020) have already been identified and the procurement process is underway. A needs assessment on critical inputs and material needed for the upcoming season (2021A) was carried out and the process to obtain them is under way.



The on-site trainings of JP RWEE beneficiaries through fruits trees/nursery beds have already been established (in June 2020) at each group/cooperative identified site (for all the 19 groups/cooperatives). The learning sessions will continue to be provided until seedlings are ready to be planted.

12 cooperatives/groups composed of 1,181 members including 927 women (78.5%) and 254 men (22.5%) from three districts of Muhanga, Gakenke and Nyagatare were also supported with improved seeds including 80 kg of green beans, 2.25 kg of cabbage, 6 kg of onion, 0.6 kg of eggplant, 3.9 kg of carrot, 1 kg of beetroot and 1 kg of tomato. The cooperatives/groups planted the received seeds at a total of 16.4 hectares (4.5 hectare for cabbage, 1.6 hectare for green beans, 1 hectare for onions, 0.8 hectare for eggplants, 6.5 hectare for carrots, 1 hectare for beetroots and 1 hectare for tomatoes). This is expected to increase the production and improve the livelihoods of the farmers to better cope with the socio-economic impact of COVID-19.



KOPARWAMU (Koperative Rwasamira Muhanga) Cooperative of Nyamabuye Sector, Muhanga District in Southern Province of Rwanda composed of 396 members (359 women and 37 men) received 2,400 grams of carrots and 300 grams of cabbages planted at 35 hectares to boost the production. The productivity during the dry season (season C) is generally lower but to mitigate the socio-economic impact of COVID-19, efforts were introduced to increase the production and income of farmers from vegetables to better cope during the crisis. Furthermore, during the season C, prices of vegetable produce are generally higher than other farming seasons as vegetable supplies are usually lower. In addition to agricultural inputs, members were supported with coaching and on-site trainings and, as a result of this combined support, the projected harvest after three months is expected to triple in comparison to the previous season's C harvest. KOPARWAMU is expected to harvest 32 tonnes of cabbages and 90 tonnes of carrots with the projected income of 5,900,000 RWF (equivalent to 6,276 USD). The increase in production will continue to contribute to food availability, nutrition and income generation despite the COVID-19 pandemic.



Furthermore, the study on 'Inventory of Good Practices and Knowledge Sharing on Effective and Women Friendly Labor-Saving Technologies' is on-going. The study will avail of information on technologies that can be adopted by women to lessen their workload while contributing to their economic empowerment.

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

The Farmer Field and Life Schools (FFLS) approach will continue to be used as in trainings to introduce improved agriculture techniques for increased production and skills for resilience. As part of the current annual workplan, 20 FFLS facilitators have

been identified and will be trained on the approach. Exercise for the identification of FFLS demonstration plots is in the final phase and weekly trainings will be starting soon (most likely in September/October).

In order to address the challenge of maize postharvest handling, and to continue to enhance the capacity of rural women to reduce post-harvest losses in the maize value chain and ensure good quality of the produce for markets and consumers, the programme will support cooperatives/groups with seven maize drying halls. The cooperatives/groups that will benefit from the facilities have been identified and have purchased the plots with the facilitation of the implementing partner and local authorities. The tender for the selection of the construction company has been launched and construction is expected to start by the beginning of September 2020.

The JP RWEE will support cooperatives/groups with drying sheds. In collaboration with local authorities, the relevant JP RWEE Implementing Partner and beneficiaries, the sites where the drying sheds will be installed have already been identified and the tender for construction works is in process. Construction works are expected to start soon.

As a result of the GALS (Gender Action Learning System) methodology and GALS trainings that were offered in 2019, 98 GALS champions have achieved their plans of having kitchen gardens in this year (2020) and their nutrition has improved due to eating balanced diet mostly with vegetable. In addition, this has reduced the amount of money that was previously used for buying vegetables on the market and this money can now be used for buying alternative food.

As a result of JP RWEE capacity building and advocacy activities, in collaboration with Nyaruguru District authorities, programme beneficiaries in May 2020 were supported with **1,000** chickens that have already started to positively contribute to their improved nutrition and this is also expected to contribute to production and incomes.



**ABAHANGUDUSHYA cooperative members in their chicken business.**

## **Outcome 2 Rural women have increased income to secure their livelihoods**

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

Five cooperatives with a total of 494 members (378 women and 116 men) from three districts of Kirehe, Ngoma and Nyaruguru recorded a total production of 8.052 tons of tomatoes and with improved access to markets, resulting in a total income of 1,388,750 RWF (equivalent to 1,477.39 USD). The increased production was the result of improved farming practices in disease free greenhouses and proper maintenance of greenhouses. As a result of the JP RWEE intervention, all cooperative members reported that they were able to pay for health insurance and to address basic family needs such as food, education, and clothes. The smallholder farmers were also capacitated through awareness raising to prevent COVID-19 spreading and stay safe and healthy.

The COVID-19 crisis has hampered farmers' access to markets and many farmers experienced production losses due to lack of market of the perishable produce. Through coaching and business advisory, farmers have increased their entrepreneurship skills and improved their access to markets. For example, the cooperative COAFGA- cooperative des Agriculteurs des Fruits de Gakenke in Gakenke District, composed of 100 members (47 women and 53 men), could increase their production of pineapple at 4 hectares of land.

The cooperative was supported and linked to COVAFGA (Cooperative de valorisation des fruits de Gakenke), a processing plant in Gakenke district adding value on pineapple by producing juice and wine. The trainings and linkages to markets allowed the cooperative members to supply 4 tons of green pineapples providing them total income of 560,000 RWF (595.7 USD). As a result

of the increased access to sustainable markets and income, the cooperative managed to expand its farmland through the purchasing of 1 hectare of land at 1.9 million Rwandan Francs and the cooperative received a loan of 4 million RWF from microfinance to increase their own production.

**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***

From the previous project phases, the programme has been empowering women and encouraging them to participate in decision making structures. Currently in all the 19 groups/cooperatives, 111 women (73%) are members of both their respective boards of directors and supervisory committees, against 41 (27%) men.

Due to the COVID-19 posed challenges of not being able to convene programme beneficiaries for trainings, preliminary work for trainings and capacity building were conducted. The terms of reference to hire a consultant who will support the Training of Trainers (TOT) on men care methodology were developed and approved; beneficiaries to be trained have already been identified and trainings will start in October 2020.

The planned exchange/study visits on selected themes (governance/leadership, entrepreneurship, women participation etc.) have not taken place yet due to the current situation of COVID-19. The activity will be carried out as soon as the conditions are favorable.

***Output 3.2 Rural women have greater organizational capacities to form, sustain and participate into Producer Organizations, cooperatives and unions***

Coaching informal groups of rural women on governance, leadership, financial management and providing them with advice towards formal/legal cooperative registration is ongoing. There were delays related to COVID-19 where both implementing partners and group members had challenges related to movements and hence could not access the services on time.

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

Though most of the work was affected by COVID-19, preparations of preliminary work was conducted and most of the planned activities under this output will start to be implemented in September (planned activities under the programme are: conduct gender awareness trainings for board members and audit committee of cooperatives in the context of Gender in Agribusiness leadership and Governance, Training of Trainers (ToTs) of women on leadership skills in the context of Gender in Agribusiness leadership, training of cooperatives on aggregation, collective selling, pricing and contract management and market linkages and Support cooperatives/groups in business plan development).

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

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

The JP RWEE last year supported the development of two important studies (Gender in the Bean Value Chain and Women in Value Chain finance) and this year there is a planned workshop for the dissemination and awareness creation of the findings of the studies.

In addition, last year, in collaboration with other partners like DfID, the JP RWEE supported the Ministry of Agriculture to conduct the “Women’s empowerment in agriculture index” (WEAI) to collect data which will be used in different National Statistics. The study was finalized and published early this year.

**II. Delays in implementation, Challenges, Lessons learned & Best practices**

The programme experienced one major challenge that affected the programme implementation which is the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic and its devastating effects. The pandemic led to the enforcement of an almost two month long countrywide lockdown and a further extended lockdown for certain districts in which COVID-19 cases were detected. This put on hold the implementation for the most of the programme activities.

The national COVID-19 response measures and restrictions, such as social distancing and limited movements in and between districts, which are still valid to some extent, still affect effective programme implementation and, in particular there are still challenges related to organizing face to face workshops and meetings, trainings, field visits, partners' consultations and face to face engagement with rural women beneficiaries.

In order to deal with these challenges, strategies like virtual meetings were initiated and conducted (mostly for the technical team and implementing partners). Using field officers from implementing partners who are on the ground enhanced communication with beneficiaries and regular follow-up and communication was a great tool to assess and remain updated on the situation of beneficiaries.

Despite the challenges mentioned, farming was fortunately one of the activities that to some extent was exempted by the restrictions and hence individual or family farming activities could continue to take place. However, cooperatives/groups were not able to meet for their mutual activities and most of the agriculture value chain activities were affected.

Furthermore, the preventive measure taken regarding COVID-19 such as restrictions in terms of movements and gatherings, negatively affected the saving groups' ability to meet for saving and loan activities and conducting other related activities like small income generating activities. Some of the members who had taken small loans from saving groups were not able to pay back loans due to the socio-economic impact caused by COVID-19.

Saving groups have limited available funds to lend out to members which affected most of individual income generating activities due to shortage of finance as result of the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis. Most of the women engaged in small businesses reported to be affected mostly by limitations in accessing markets and clients.

Despite the above, community voluntary saving and lending groups has played a big role in building resilience of beneficiaries during COVID-19 crisis, where members have used the saved money to buy food and other essential items while income generating activities were affected. In addition to the above, some activities which need direct collaboration with Government institutions (e.g. Ministry of Agriculture) are still challenging due to the COVID-19 pandemic but most of the planned activities will start in September 2020.

A joint field mission was conducted to all the 19 groups/cooperatives and this was a good opportunity to meet the beneficiaries, local authorities and implementing partners. Another good practice was a meeting between UN implementing agencies and all Implementing Partners aimed at strengthening mechanisms to deliver as one.

There was a great opportunity of learning mostly on remote coordination that was and is still a good response to the issue of direct collaboration with different partners and programme beneficiaries.

Another opportunity and the process of learning was the importance of leveraging technology among rural women for their economic empowerment and access and use of technology towards women's resilience mostly to respond to the challenges related to restrictions on movements and gatherings. For example, adoption of using telephones by groups/cooperative leaders in knowing the situation of members and using mobile money services for saving and loan groups among others and this practice will continue.

### **III. Qualitative Assessment**

Building on the implementation of the years 2018/2019, the programme supported 18 cooperatives and one cooperative in Kirehe district split into two where the number of cooperatives/groups increased to 19 in the three districts of project intervention ( Ngoma, Kirehe and Nyaruguru) and direct beneficiaries numbered 2,083 (1,713 women and 370 men). In order to create synergies and increase the impact, this year a joint technical team composed of participating UN Agencies, implementing partners and Local Authorities carried out inventory and assessment of beneficiaries in all 19 groups/cooperatives and found out that currently there 1,986 beneficiaries/ programme participants (1,653 women and 333 men) and all partners strengthened monitoring and engagements of being close to beneficiaries during these challenging period of COVID-19 Pandemic.

The rapid gender field assessment that was conducted towards the end of June 2020, showed that livelihoods of beneficiaries have been seriously affected, as well as gender relations in households and communities due to unpaid household care work, the burden and workload of household works increased for women. This was exacerbated by the fact that children were not at school and

gender based violence among JP RWEE beneficiaries and the incidents of GBV increased during the COVID -19 period especially carried out by men towards women There was also an increase in teenage pregnancies. Last year, the JP RWEE supported the development of two important studies (Gender in Bean Value Chain and Women in Value Chain Finance) and this year, there is a planned workshop for the dissemination and awareness creation of the findings of the studies. The dissemination will raise awareness among stakeholders on what challenges women so they can support and tackle them for more inclusive finance and value chains.

Furthermore, this year two more important studies are under development: i) a study on rural women's participation in and benefits from nutrient rich food production, purchase and consumption patterns within JP RWEE groups, including the efficiency of the retail system among supported beneficiaries/communities; and ii) an inventory of good practices/ benchmarks, and knowledge sharing on effective and women friendly labor-saving technologies.

There has been a strong collaboration of the JP RWEE and One UN Rwanda where for instance under the One UN Rwanda UNDP II(United Nations Development Assistance Plan II) , the JP RWEE was considered and for this year, a total of 987,875 USD (where 569,684 USD was disbursed in February 2020 and 418,190 USD disbursed in July 2020) was allocated to support the JP RWEE activities for this year. With a good collaboration with the Office of One UN Resident Coordinator (RCO), UN Implementing Agencies designed a joint proposal to support the activities of JP RWEE that will continue to be funded until 2023. All activities in the proposal are in line with the main interventions of JP RWEE -indicated in the project document.

As the implementation of this year's annual work plan continues, a key focus will continue to be on awareness raising in COVID-19 prevention and information on guidelines and how to continue operations in a safe manner, ensure continued productivity through agricultural inputs during the dry seasons (season C) between June and mid-September 2020 to increase the income of women farmers, facilitate beneficiaries on access to markets in order to mitigate socio-economic impact of COVID-19 among others.

## Indicator Based Performance Assessment

	Achieved Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
<b>Outcome 1 Rural women have Improved food and nutrition security</b>			
Output 1.1 Rural women have increased access to and control over resources, assets and services critical for their food and nutrition security			
Indicator 1.1.1 Number of rural women and men in targeted areas utilizing labor saving technologies (LST) Baseline: 0 Target: 120 (80 women and 40 men)	120 beneficiaries trained in the construction and maintenance of LST (80 women and 40 men).		Implementing Partner report
Indicator 1.1.2: Number of rural women led groups are utilizing climate smart technologies  Baseline: 2 Planned: 6	6 cooperatives composed by 654 members (514 women and 140 men) from 6 groups/cooperatives.	More rural women benefited due to increased targeting during the year This is a shared activity between FAO & IFAD.	Implementing partner's quarterly reports
Indicator 1.1.3 Number of Households utilizing rainwater harvested for agriculture production Baseline: 500 Target: 740	240 household supported for rainwater harvesting.	240 beneficiaries to be supported have been identified and the activity is on-going and until September 2020.	Implementing partner's quarterly reports
Indicator 1.1.2: Number of rural women and men who have strengthened their knowledge on land rights and land management  Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 1,000 (800 women and 200 men)	Training not carried out	This was not achieved due to COVID-19 pandemic. It is expected to be resumed in this quarter and it will be implemented as part of the national socioeconomic response and recovery plan for COVID-19.	



<p>Indicator 1.1.3: Rural farmers supported with agricultural inputs to improve productivity and income Baseline: 0 Planned Target:1,181 (927 women and 254` men)</p>	<p>1,181 rural farmers (927 women, 254 men) grouped into 12 cooperatives/groups received agricultural inputs for different crops including carrot, cabbage, green beans, beetroot, eggplant and onions.</p>	<p>This is a new activity in response to COVID-19 aimed at facilitating rural women in grouped/cooperatives improve the productivity.</p>	<p>Implementing Partner report</p>
<p><b>Output 1.2 Rural women have greater capacity to enhance and control local food security reserves and their production</b></p>			
<p>Indicator 1.2.1: Number of rural women in targeted areas utilizing improved production techniques (% change over baseline) Baseline: 30% Target: 60%</p>	<p>Status: 619 women (68%) from 5 farmers' 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.</p>	<p>More efforts were invested in capacity building.</p>	<p>Field reports and implementing Partners reports and records from farmer's groups</p>
<p>Indicator 1.2.2: Number of rural women accessing extension services (% of increase over baseline)  Baseline: 974 (30%) Target: 2,083 (100%)</p>	<p>Status: 1288 (32%) women and 260 (70%) men 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.</p>	<p>The target covers the final year of the JP RWEE phase one</p>	<p>Field reports and implementing Partners reports and records from beneficiary groups/cooperatives.</p>
<p><b>Outcome 2 Rural women have increased income to secure their livelihoods.</b></p>			
<p><b>Indicator 2.1:</b> Income generated by community saving groups (RWF)  Baseline:</p>		<p>Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the data collection was not conducted and will be reported during annual reporting period</p>	

Target: 75,000,000 RWF ( US\$ 81,522 )			
Output 2.1 Rural women have enhanced entrepreneurship skills and value chains to access markets for their products			
Indicator 2.1.1: Number of rural women's cooperatives and women groups with agriculture production sales to markets  Baseline:2 Target: 20	Postponed	Due to the challenges of COVID-19 pandemic, the programme activities contributing to this indicator has been extended/rescheduled and will continue to be implemented up to June 2021	
Indicator 2.1.2: Number of households with small livestock in targeted areas  Baseline: 167 Target: 600 HH with Livestock	Status: 600 HH (420 Women and 180 men) received chicken		Field reports and implementing Partner reports and records from beneficiary groups/cooperatives.
Indicator 2.1.3: Number of women trained on entrepreneurship skills and value chain  Baseline: 0 Target:300 women and men received coaching (200 women and 100 men)	Postponed	Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the programme activities contributing to this indicator have been rescheduled and will continue to be implemented up to June 2021	
Indicator 2.1.4: Number of cooperatives and groups received coaching and business advisory services  Baseline:2 Target:20 Cooperatives and groups			
Indicator 2.1.5: Number of rural women in targeted areas accessing finance from financial institutions (by SACCO, MFI, Banks, VSLs.  Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 600 (400 women+200 men)	Postponed	Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the programme activities contributing to this indicator have been rescheduled and will continue to be implemented up to June 2021	

Indicator 2.1.6: Cumulative amounts of savings realized by VSLAs  Baseline: Target: 25,000,000 RWF (US\$ 27,174)	Postponed	Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the data collection was not conducted and will be reported during annual reporting period	
Output 2.2 Rural women have increased access to decent wage employment opportunities			
Indicator 2.2.1: Total Number of women and men farmers directly benefiting from loans from SACCOs or other Financial institutions and Banks through startup funds from JP RWEE for income generating activities  Baseline: Planned Target: 600 (400 women+200 men)	Postponed	Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the programme activities contributing to this indicator have been rescheduled and will continue to be implemented up to June 2021	
<b>Outcome 3: Rural women have enhanced leadership and participation in their communities and in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programmes</b>			
Output 3.1 Rural women, including young women have enhanced confidence and leadership skills to participate in local governance			
Indicator 3.1.1: Number of women trained on leadership involvement in management  Baseline: Planned Target:608 women	Postponed	Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the programme activities contributing to this indicator have been rescheduled and will continue to be implemented up to June 2021	
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 POs, cooperatives and unions that adopt a gender policy/strategy and/or a women's quota for their board  Baseline: 10 Planned Target: 10 cooperatives (900 women and 190 men)	Postponed	Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the programme activities contributing to this indicator have been rescheduled and will continue to be implemented up to June 2021	
Indicator 3.2.2: Number of informal rural women			

groups that join formally registered POs, cooperatives and unions  Baseline: 0 Target: 5 groups (500 women & 85 men)			
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: Rural women participating in leadership trainings for women involved in the management of JPRWEE supported groups and cooperatives (using adult learning methodologies including visual aids)	Postponed	Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the programme activities contributing to this indicator have been rescheduled and will continue to be implemented up to June 2021	
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 champions who are being trained on GALS methodology plus nutrition and climate change  Baseline: 960 Planned Target: 1320 champions	67 champions (59 women and 8 men) are being trained on GALS methodology plus nutrition and climate change	The remaining champions will be trained in next quarter July- December 2020	Implementing partner's quarterly reports
Indicator 3.4.2 Number of women agri-extension officers trained in agriculture extension services  Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 100 women	Postponed	Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the programme activities contributing to this indicator have been rescheduled and will continue to be implemented up to June 2021	
Indicator 3.4.3: Women and men with improved awareness in COVID-19 prevention and cope with COVID-19 socio-economic impact challenges  Baseline: 0 Target: 5,000 (3,400 women and 1,600 men)	5,000 people (3, 435 women and 1,565 men) improved awareness prevention of coronavirus through support of hygiene kits that included a total of 10,000 protective face masks, hygienic materials such as soap and hand washing facilities to enhance good practices of basic hygiene to prevent spreading of the COVID-19 virus. A total number of five thousand people		

	attended eleven sessions (4 in Nyagatare district, 4 in Muhanga District and 3 in Gakenke District) of awareness mobilization on COVID-19 and distribution of hygienic kits.		
<b>Outcome 4: A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women</b>			
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 stakeholders from private sector reached that can now enhance their capacities to effectively mainstream gender  Baseline: Planned Target: 400 rural women farmers, 200 men farmers and 50 local leaders	Postponed	Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the programme activities contributing to this indicator have been rescheduled and will continue to be implemented up to June 2021	
Indicator 4.1.2. Number of local authorities with increased capacity on gender-responsive  Baseline: Planned Target: 50 (35 women and 15 men)	Postponed	Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the programme activities contributing to this indicator have been rescheduled and will continue to be implemented up to June 2021	
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 Statistics  Baseline: 0 Target:1	WEAI end line survey finalized in partnership with MINAGRI and DFID		The WEAI study report is available
Output 4.3: An enabling environment is promoted to reflect rural women’s priorities in regional policy processes.			

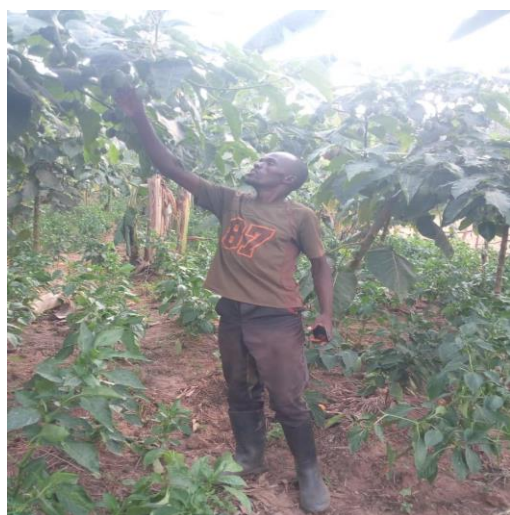
<p>Indicator 4.3.1. Number of stakeholders participating in policy dialogue</p> <p>Baseline:- Planned Target: 150 (95 women and 55 men)</p>	<p>Postponed</p>	<p>Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the programme activities contributing to this indicator have been rescheduled and will continue to be implemented up to June 2021</p>	
---	------------------	--	--

## Selected Testimonies



1. **KAGENZA Schadrack** is a 65 year old father with a wife and 10 children, 7 of them are married. Now he stays at home with his wife and three children. He has been a JP RWEE beneficiary since 2018. KAGENZA is a member of TERIMBERE MUTEGARUGORI group, one of the new JP RWEE groups initiated in 2018 located in Kigarama sector; Kirehe district. He has appreciated the JP RWEE and its partners for having provided technical support. He was one of the participants in the study tour done at MULINDI/Agri-show, organized by the programme last year, where participants visited different companies selling vegetable seeds and demonstrated different techniques applied in growing vegetables in the Farmer Field School plots and they applied the knowledge acquired by applying it back home. Using skills gained from the tour visit, he started growing vegetables and applying agricultural techniques learnt during the study tour. As a result, he has got the good harvest of 1800 cabbages. One cabbage is sold at a price of between 100Frw and 200 Frw and he has obtained a total of 150,000Rwf (197.3 USD) from sales of his produce. The

income earned from the production of these cabbages was used in growing maize, where he harvested 4 tons of maize. He said that due to the training and practice done on FFS and PHHs training, he was able to get a high production and ensure good quality of the maize produce, sold at 1,035,000Rwf (1,067 USD). Presently, he is renovating his house with a budget of 800,000Rwf (824.7 USD). During the current season C, he is again growing cabbage. His wife confirmed that their livelihood has improved, food security has improved as well as nutrition security as they are not having a problem to prepare balanced food/diet at home.



2. **NDEREYIMANA Dieudonné** is 35 years old and he is a father of three children. He has been a JP RWEE beneficiary since 2015, he said that before he joined programme, he was not able to engage himself in agriculture activities for income generation. After joining the programme, his capacity was built through trainings, especially on income generating activities, record keeping, financial management and VSL. After the trainings, he took a bold decision and took out a loan and started to grow

vegetables and fruits as he was equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills. He has now initiated a farm enterprise of tree tomatoes, sweet pepper, passion fruits and tomatoes. He said: “I started a small agriculture business of growing vegetables and fruits aiming at selling vegetables and fruits and increasing the investment in my small shop that helps me in the daily life, and this has become a reality”.

3.



4. Florence BUTOYI is a mother of 32 years old with a husband and 2 children. BUTOYI has been a JP RWEE beneficiary since 2018. BUTOYI is a member of NKABIKORERA-KIBIMBA group, one of the new JP RWEE groups initiated in 2018 located in Jarama sector, Ngoma district in eastern province of Rwanda.

Before being a JP RWEE beneficiary, she had no idea of how a woman can do a business and feared to engage herself in business activities. She was of the traditional belief that her duties were to do housework/unpaid care work. In June 2019, BUTOYI participated in the study tour and benchmarking visit organized by the JP RWEE in Kirehe (Nasho) and Rwamagana, to learn from other advanced cooperatives, where participants visited different farm-based income generating activities including, vegetable (tomatoes), maize and shared experiences.

Using skills gained from the tour visit, BUTOYI started growing vegetables using an investment of 20,000 Rwf (20.6 USD) given by her husband. During an evaluation of livelihoods of the farmers at cell level conducted by local government, she was the first woman in the cell to improve the livelihood of her household and she was rewarded with **150,000 RWF** (970 USD) and she used the money in boosting her small business.

From the saving group, where BUTOYI is a member, she borrowed money as loan of **100,000 Rwf** (104 USD) in addition to her reward, she has bought a goat and a pig and also hired the land to grow maize and beans, where she employs 7 workers per day and has increased the production from 100 kg for food consumption to 1 ton of maize for commercialization and has now started a new business of selling banana where she can get an average income of **9,000 Rwf** (9.4 USD) per week.