

**“ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARD THE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN”  
FINAL PROGRAMME<sup>1</sup> REPORT  
REPORTING PERIOD: 10/2014-06/2021**

**Programme Title & Project Number**

- Programme Title: Accelerating Progress Towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women in Guatemala
- MPTF Office Project Reference Number: 00092001

**Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results**

Municipalities of Panzós, San Miguel Tucurú, Santa Catalina La Tinta, in the Department of Alta Verapaz, in Guatemala

The strategic result is to secure rural women’s livelihoods and rights in the context of sustainable development and the SDGs.

Direct beneficiaries: 12,003 (9,191 women and 2,812 men)  
Indirect beneficiaries: 38,165 (23,041 women and 15,124 men)<sup>2</sup>

**Participating Organization(s)**

- FAO, IFAD, UN WOMEN, WFP

**Implementing Partners**

Association for Integral Development -ADRI- (National NGO) was the joint implementing partner for all the four participating organizations.

National counterparts:  
MAGA (Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Alimentación – Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food)  
MINECO (Ministerio de Economía - Ministry of Economy) PRODENORTE (Sustainable Rural Development Program for the Northern Region)  
CONALFA (Comité Nacional de Alfabetización - National Literacy Committee)  
SEPREM (Secretaria Presidencial de la Mujer – Presidential Secretariat for Women)

<sup>1</sup> The term “programme” is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects.  
<sup>2</sup> Indirect beneficiaries calculated based on people reached in radio campaign and other events

**Programme/Project Cost (US\$)**

Total approved budget as  
per project document:

MPTF Contribution,

Norway:

● *by Agency*

*FAO: US\$ 245,481*

*IFAD: US\$ 49,776*

*WFP: US\$ 145,929*

*UN Women: US\$ 49,776*

MPTF Contribution,

Sweden:

● *by Agency*

*FAO: US\$ 977,688*

*IFAD: US\$ 250,500*

*WFP: US\$ 1,652,292*

*UN Women: US\$*

*1,307,774*

***Total approved budget:***

*US\$ 4,188,254*

**Programme Duration**

Overall Duration 6.5  
YEARS

Start Date: 15/10/2012

Start date of activities:  
1/10/2014

End Date with extension:  
30/06/2021

**Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.**

Assessment/Review - if applicable *please attach*

Yes  No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy*

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

Yes  No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy*

**Report Submitted By**

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## ACRONYMS

<b>ADRI</b>	Integral Development Association
<b>CENTRARSE</b>	Centre for Corporate Social Responsibility Action in Guatemala
<b>COCODE</b>	Community Development Council
<b>COCOSAN</b>	Community Council for Food and Nutrition Security
<b>COMUDE</b>	Municipal Development Council
<b>COMUSAN</b>	Council for Food and Nutrition Security
<b>CONALFA</b>	National Literacy Committee
<b>DMM</b>	Municipal Directorate for Women
<b>DIFOPROCO</b>	Directorate for the Strengthening of Productive Organization and Commercialization
<b>ECLAC</b>	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization
<b>FODIGUA</b>	Guatemalan Indigenous Development Fund
<b>FONTIERRA</b>	Land Fund
<b>IFAD</b>	International Fund for Agricultural Development
<b>INAB</b>	National Forestry Institute
<b>INTECAP</b>	Technical Training Institute
<b>JP RWEE</b>	Joint Programme Rural Women Economic Empowerment
<b>MAGA</b>	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food
<b>MIDES</b>	Ministry for Social Development
<b>MINEDUC</b>	Ministry of Education
<b>MINECO</b>	Ministry of Economy
<b>MINFIN</b>	Ministry of Finance
<b>MINTRAB</b>	Ministry of Labour
<b>MPTF</b>	Multi-Partner Trust Fund
<b>MSPAS</b>	Ministry for Public Health and Social Assistance.
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organization
<b>NSR</b>	New Sun Road
<b>PO</b>	Producer Organization
<b>OPF</b>	Parents Organizations
<b>PAFFEC</b>	Family Farming Programme for Peasant Economy Strengthening
<b>PNPDIM</b>	National Policy for the Advancement and Integral Development of Women
<b>PEO</b>	Equal Opportunity Plan
<b>PRODENORTE</b>	Programme for Sustainable Rural Development in Northern Region
<b>RIC</b>	Registry of Cadastral Information
<b>RIMS</b>	Risk and Impacts Management
<b>SAA</b>	Secretary of Agrarian Affairs
<b>SEGEPLAN</b>	Secretariat of Programming and Planning of the Presidency
<b>SEPREM</b>	Presidential Secretariat for Women
<b>SESAN</b>	Secretariat of Food and Nutrition Security
<b>UGMAGA</b>	MAGA Gender Unit
<b>UN Women</b>	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
<b>WEAI</b>	Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index
<b>WEPs</b>	Women's Empowerment Principles
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Joint Programme "Accelerating Progress Towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women" (JP RWEE), which aimed to secure the livelihoods and rights of rural women in the context of sustainable development, was implemented in Guatemala from January 2014 to June 2021. It was jointly implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), UN Women, and the World Food Programme (WFP) in the municipalities of San Miguel Tucurú, Santa Catalina La Tinta, and Panzos in the Department of Alta Verapaz. This area has one of the highest percentages of extreme poverty in Guatemala (53.6%), with extreme poverty among the indigenous population standing at 39.8%, as compared to 12.8% amongst the non-indigenous population.

The JP RWEE reached 12,003 direct beneficiaries (10,322 women and 1,681 men<sup>3</sup>), the majority of whom were indigenous Q'eqchi women. The programme worked with 72 rural women's groups and organizations. Participants also included 2,812 civil servants (2,530 women and 282 men) from different government institutions<sup>4</sup> and social organizations<sup>5</sup> working for the empowerment of rural women. Despite considerable external challenges which impacted on the programme area during the implementation period, significant achievements were realised across the four programme outcomes.

A key result contributing to increased food security and nutrition is the overall increase in agricultural production of 53% (66.4% increase in maize production and 39% increase in bean production), as a result of improved agricultural practices. Rural women's incomes were substantially increased over the course of the programme, contributing to their economic autonomy and recognition within the wider household of the value of women in contributing to household livelihoods. A total of US\$ 417,531 was generated from collective and individual sales (representing a 48% increase). Ten organisations accessed the government's school feeding market.

With regards to women's enhanced participation and leadership in rural life and institutions, at the start of the programme, women's participation in decision-making spaces was minimal. The JP RWEE worked on strengthening rural women's knowledge on their rights, on the legal framework of development councils, and on electoral law. As a result, the proportion of rural women elected representatives in the Municipal Urban and Rural Development Councils increased from 5% to 18%. Another important result is that 100% of POs in the programme are now led by women and 40% of them have adopted gender policies. The programme achieved a major milestone for gender sensitive policy development in Guatemala through its collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA). This collaboration enabled the development and implementation of gender responsive agricultural policies including the first Institutional Policy for Gender Equality and its Strategy (2014-2023). The Gender and Rural Advisory Services Assessment Tool (GRAST), a tool which analyses rural advisory services from a gender perspective, was also successfully piloted with government. The tool has great potential for replication and scale up.

Central to the programme's achievements was the collaboration between the four agencies. The specific technical expertise of each agency was central to the programme being able to achieve results that enabled the economic empowerment of marginalised rural women.

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<sup>3</sup> Although men do not belong to organizations and groups, they were considered as beneficiaries, as they were also involved in the different gender sensitisation activities.

<sup>4</sup> MAGA, MINTRAB, MINEDUC, MINECO, SESAN, MIDES, MSPAS, MINFIN, SEGEPLAN, SAA, INE, INAB, FONTIERRAS, CONAP, RIC, CONALFA, SEPREM, SCEP.

<sup>5</sup> CENTRARSE, NSR, Barefoot College, ADRI.

## I. Purpose

The overall objective of the JP RWEE in Guatemala was to secure rural women's livelihoods and rights in the context of sustainable development through four programme outcomes: (i) improved food and nutrition security; (ii) increased incomes to secure livelihoods; (iii) women's enhanced participation and leadership in rural life and institutions; and (iv) a more gender-responsive political environment.

The JP RWEE was aligned with Guatemala's national development priorities and strategies. Within Latin America and the Caribbean, Guatemala has the highest percentage of women without an individual income (60% of women compared to 14% of men). According to the 2018 national census, household chores are overwhelmingly carried out by women (97.2% as compared to 2.8% by men). Furthermore, women have a low participation rate in the economy, 37% as compared to 84% for men. With the aim of responding to these inequalities and advancing the economic empowerment of rural women, the JP RWEE supported national institutions in developing gender responsive policies and strategies. These institutions included the Ministry of Economy, the Executive Coordination Secretariat of the Presidency, the Presidential Secretariat for Women and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA), which is responsible for the implementation of the National Policy for Integrated Rural Development (PNDRI).

## II. Assessment of Programme Results

### i) Narrative reporting on results:

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

The main entry point for the JP RWEE in Guatemala was the identification of subsistence women farmer's groups who were food insecure and unable to earn a living from agriculture. Through the JP RWEE, these women were supported to become self-sufficient and to generate surpluses of quality produce for sale and income generation. At the start of the programme, baseline data showed that 95% of women were involved in a productive or agricultural activity but that it was not part of the household's livelihood; by the end of the JP RWEE, 100% of the women reported that they were involved in a productive activity that had enabled them to generate income and contribute to the overall livelihood of the household. A total of 3,525 beneficiaries were reached by the programme (2,499 women and 1,026 men). Beneficiaries were supported in improving their food and nutritional security through close coordination with the Municipal Rural Extension Agencies of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA). This included strengthening agricultural support services to family farms and gardens, incorporating a gender sensitive approach and developing mechanisms for dialogue with rural women, including facilitating field visits to analyse and improve the services provided. As a result of this support, agricultural production increased with 53%.

Taking into account the indigenous context and the need to ensure that traditional knowledge and culture was maximized, the use of native species for nutritional intake was promoted. Native plants were incorporated into household diets, contributing to the improvement of family members' nutritional status through their high content of iron, protein, calcium, zinc and vitamin A. In coordination with the Municipalities of Panzós, La Tinta and Tukurú, a cooking competition was organized which focused on the use of native ingredients and involved 243 participants (72 men and 171 women). As a result of this competition, a "Compendium of Native Plants and Recipes" document was prepared for distribution to local rural communities in coordination with MAGA. In addition, MAGA started the process of identifying native medicinal plants in order to produce a comprehensive compendium for extension workers to improve food and nutritional security at the local level.

A significant change was that, in 2015, 93% of women identified themselves as housewives, dedicated to a reproductive role that includes cleaning, food preparation and childcare; whilst in 2021, only 51% (a 42% reduction) recognized themselves as housewives, with the remainder classifying themselves as farmers.

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

The JP RWEE contributed to the implementation of good agricultural practices<sup>6</sup> by providing technical support to MAGA's rural extension services, to the wider Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food, and to rural women by strengthening their knowledge and capacities in areas related to food and nutrition security and production systems.

Through this effort to improve food production, access and control of productive resources, and access to technical assistance services, a significant contribution was made to rural women's ability to:

- Access greater quantities and more diverse food, in turn, improving family nutrition.
- Develop and implement good practices in the field to strengthen and improve food and nutrition security, including the development of a recipe book, entitled "Compilation of Native Plants and Recipes"<sup>7</sup> which was distributed for use by local rural communities.
- Strengthen the rural economy through improved family farming. Women incorporated practices to ensure sustainable production for food security and improve nutrition. These practices were mainly focused on good farm and home garden practices such as the use of better seeds varieties, crops diversification including edible herbs and several techniques for planting and germinating
- Access markets and increase and diversify their incomes as a result of diversification of their farm and home garden production practices, and through acquiring assets for the production and commercialization of their products.
- Organize in associations in order to commercialize their products and achieve greater market reach.

A total of 1,372 people (1,237 women and 135 men) received technical assistance and inputs to help improve pig production and the management of poultry, broiler chickens and tilapia. In addition, women were supported in the diversification of local crops (cassava, plantains, pineapple, oranges, lemons, papaya), edible herbs (black nightshade, chipilin, miltomate, amaranth) and legumes (pigeon peas) for consumption and income generation. In total, 3,241 beneficiaries (2,354 rural women and 887 men) received training in food and nutrition security and gained knowledge on two methodological approaches for implementing production techniques (the corn crop approach and the home garden approach).

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

In order to increase rural women's capacity to enhance their food security reserves and maximise storage potential, the JP RWEE carried out training for beneficiaries in preservation and storage techniques, for example in grain drying, humidity control and grain storage methods. As a result, the women demonstrated a greater capacity to improve local food security reserves, which increased the amount of basic grains available for consumption and also enabled income generation through sales of surplus at the market. This included a 28.5% reduction in corn and bean losses and an increase of production in corn and bean harvests. Corn production increased by 19.28 quintals or 885.37 kilograms (an increase of 66.4% and an over achievement of the planned target of 10%) over the course of the programme, which represents 7.23 additional months of

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<sup>6</sup> Good agricultural practices: No burning, stubble management, grain per stand, planting spacing, incorporation of mulch, harvest and post-harvest management, improved seed, soil conservation practices, living barriers and contour lines, organic fertilizers, crop diversification.

<sup>7</sup> Compilation of Native Plants and Recipes.

reserves over the 6.5-year programme period. Bean production increased by 6.61 quintals or 300.42 kilograms (an increase of 39%), enabling 11.33 additional months of reserves.

## **Outcome 2: Rural women have increased incomes to secure their livelihoods.**

The JP RWEE supported a total of 5,842 people (5,675 women and 167 men) in increasing their incomes to secure their livelihoods. This resulted in a total profit of US\$ 417,531 for farm and backyard production groups and US\$ 625,133 for savings groups over the duration of the programme. Capacity building carried out with formal and non-formal women's groups included organizational strengthening, alongside technical assistance and support, investments in infrastructure and technology, and investments in productive enterprises to support income generation and the management of savings groups. As mentioned in the JP RWEE Final Evaluation<sup>8</sup>, organizational strengthening proved critical for ensuring the sustainability of women's groups. Women's enterprises now have a user and maintenance manual for equipment, regulations for controlling revenues and expenditures, an accountability and auditing committee, and have conflict resolution mechanisms in place. This has helped women strengthen their organizations, promote teamwork, develop their own tools and ensure more robust structures are in place for continuation over the long term.

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

Enhancement of entrepreneurship skills in order to contribute to women's capacity to commercialize products and improve market access was achieved through the following:

The JP RWEE contributed to improving rural women's entrepreneurship skills so women can access markets and commercialize their products. Main activities included:

#### Capacity-building

As part of the capacity-building training plan, the JP RWEE developed modules on the following topics: business development, organizational culture and transparency, leadership skills, entrepreneurial skills, financial management, value chain development and marketing, savings group management, gender equality, and economic empowerment. A total of 5,675 women and 167 men received this training. Training sessions were also held on the prevention of violence against women and girls.

A total of 573 women received training and certification in food processing through the Technical Training Institute (INTECAP). The technical certification from INTECAP represents a crucial advance in the technical training of indigenous women and this accreditation contributed to the long-term viability and sustainability of their business ventures.

A total of 904 women acquired literacy skills through training carried out in collaboration with the National Literacy Committee (CONALFA), leading to literacy certification, which enabled them to develop their businesses and access decent work opportunities requiring this level of training.

#### Technical assistance and support

A total of 1,586 people (1,310 women and 276 men) received technical assistance and support in their agricultural and non-agricultural enterprises in order to enhance their technical capacity and increase the quality of their products and enterprises. This included improved techniques in the production and marketing

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<sup>8</sup> FAO, IFAD, UN Women, WFP and Mokoro, 2021. Accelerating Progress towards Rural Women's Economic Empowerment in Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Nepal, Niger and Rwanda from 2014 to 2020: Final evaluation, Rome.

of non-agricultural products (natural dyes, new designs for clothing and handicrafts) and agricultural products (management of production technology, shelling machines, mills, solar dryers, food processing, etc.)

- 1,078 people (802 women and 276 men) with agricultural and service enterprises for products such as broiler chickens, eggs, pigs, mill services, kernel hulling services, oyster mushrooms, tilapia, tortillas, beans and purifying plants received technical assistance.
- 508 women with 16 non-agricultural production enterprises for confectionery products (pastries, chocolates and candy) and cleaning products (handcrafter soaps, masks) received technical assistance.

### Investments/infrastructure/technology

- Following the devastating impact of storm Eta in November 2020 and the challenges faced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, 1,150 women in 48 savings and credit groups, received additional support in the form of equipment and basic inputs to support their enterprises.
- In partnership with the Barefoot College in India, the JP RWEE supported two rural women by providing them with a scholarship for solar energy studies in New Delhi, India. Here, they learned how to install and maintain solar panels. Upon return, they applied this knowledge by installing solar systems in 100 homes in their community. The JP RWEE final evaluation found that the partnership with Barefoot College added value to the JP RWEE in several ways. “Firstly, it empowers female scholarship recipients by giving them specialist skills in solar engineering, as well as the opportunity to travel and experience life in another country. Second, it empowers communities by providing them with electricity, which brings wider implications and possibilities for community development. Furthermore, the results achieved through the JP RWEE-Barefoot College partnership carry a degree of sustainability: the women solar engineers are encouraged to pass on their skills to other members of their communities, and the solar systems themselves are durable.”<sup>9</sup>
- To guarantee communication and support to women's organizations, especially considering movement restrictions imposed due to the COVID - 19 pandemic, 50 savings groups received a digital tablet that allowed them to keep accessing training and support. In addition, women participated in digital literacy training, and as a result they could access online information and connect with social and business platforms.
- Given that access to information is crucial for women’s empowerment, the JP RWEE also supported the use of the AGRIUP platform by rural women.<sup>10</sup> In total, 77 women used this SMS and cellular application system. Through instant phone messages, the platform provided information on weather conditions and product prices in the market and is able to provide answers to questions about crops. In the future, women will be able to access an improved platform that will also include information on gender-sensitive nutrition, local markets, and social protection.
- The JP RWEE provided the following inputs to enterprises:
  - Agricultural enterprises: nixtamal mills, corn hullers, filters, water purifiers, mobile laboratories (blue box), coops for broiler chickens and laying hens, pigpens, fishponds, and solar dryers for producing flours.
  - Non-agricultural enterprises: sewing equipment and machines, backstrap looms and inputs for food production.
- In the municipalities of Panzós and San Miguel Tucurú in the Polochic Valley, the JP RWEE and NSR supported two communities without any electricity in installing Stellar Ixq-Saq’e (SIS) digital community centres. This integrated system, named after the Q’eqchi’ words for women (Ixq) and sun (Saq’e), works through remote monitoring and control. The SIS Centers brought power and internet connectivity to rural communities. Each program has five elements: community engagement, energy and internet access, business modelling, digital literacy training, and site operations. The two centres installed in the communities will be managed by the women of the savings groups, who, in turn, will

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<sup>9</sup> FAO, IFAD, UN Women, WFP and Mokoro, 2021. Accelerating Progress towards Rural Women’s Economic Empowerment in Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Nepal, Niger and Rwanda from 2014 to 2020: Final evaluation, Rome.

<sup>10</sup> SMS and cellular application system – an initiative supported by WFP Innovation Accelerator.

generate their own income by providing computer services to their community. This is of great benefit to the women of the community as, by possessing the equipment and training for computer management, they contribute to reducing technological gaps.

### Commercialization and marketing

- The L'qatenamit (“Our Markets”) commercialization strategy was developed to allow rural women to present their products at fairs and markets. This strategy included supporting rural women in the visual presentation of their products (creating brands, labels, packaging). It was implemented at the departmental level by the Ministry of Economy (MINECO), PRODENORTE Programa Desarrollo Rural Sustentable para la Región del Norte)<sup>11</sup>, and the National Institutes of Forests (INAB) through the Office of Social Development. It enabled women from marginalized areas to access larger markets.
- The use of community radios as tools of communication and dissemination allowed dissemination campaigns to be carried out. This created a more mainstream platform for women and helped with the wider community acceptance of women’s businesses.
- To promote gender equality and women’s economic empowerment in the private sector, 39<sup>12</sup> enterprises adopted the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs). This set of principles provides guidance to companies on how to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in the workplace, marketplace, and community. The programme was implemented to strengthen the link between women beneficiaries, companies' supply chains and the Corporate Social Responsibility programmes of the business sector.
- The JP RWEE helped create marketing linkages with schools for the dissemination of products such as eggs, chicken meat, seasonal fruits, vegetables, and culinary spices. By linking producer organizations to the Government's School Feeding Programme, 497 rural women belonging to 10 organizations marketed their products to a school population of 1,166 people. The partnership supported both the women's economy through this long-term economic opportunity and improved the diet of the school children as they received healthy products from their own community.
- A total of 13 anchor companies were identified to help rural women commercialize their products at fair prices.<sup>13</sup>

### Enterprises/income generation

- According to the baseline, before the JP RWEE support, the women beneficiaries did not own productive incomes and enterprises. As a result of the programme, a total of US\$ 417,531 in income was generated by rural women’s organizations through sales of agricultural (broiler chickens, eggs, pigs, oyster mushrooms, tilapia, tortilla making services, nixtamal mills, corn hullers and water purifiers) and non-agricultural products (honey, shampoo, textiles, handcrafted soaps), benefitting 73 productive organizations.
- There was a 48% increase in sales from farm and backyard surpluses (333 women achieved up to US\$ 112 monthly).

### Community savings and loans groups

- Through the implementation of the community savings and loans methodology, 51 organized groups, comprising a total of 1,213 rural women, generated a cumulative income of US\$ 625,133 through savings and interest on loans. The community savings and loans methodology increased women's capacity to manage their own resources and develop their entrepreneurial skills. It was

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<sup>11</sup> Programme for sustainable rural development in Northern Region.

<sup>12</sup> Annex: WEPs website link: Home | WEPs.

<sup>13</sup> Annex: L'qatenamit strategy and list of anchor companies.

an easy and adaptive way for women to strengthen their organization and to create their own rules for group management and economic decision-making.

- A pilot plan was developed to strengthen the management of the Community Savings and Loan Groups through an application called “Mi Caja” developed by Agros Internacional as part of another project of the Rural Poor Stimulus Fund (RPSF) of IFAD. Ten savings groups participated in the pilot plan and received 10 tablets with internet connection. Through this, 20 Q'eqchi women were trained in digitalising the group’s financial operations by automating records related to savings, loans, and other financial products for 271 women (of which 46% youth).

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

Critical to women’s empowerment is their participation and leadership in decision-making spaces within communities and rural institutions. In total, 5,666 people (5,293 women and 373 men) benefitted from actions promoting women’s leadership. Over the duration of the programme, women’s membership of COCODES and the Municipal Urban and Rural Development Councils (COMODES) increased from 5 to 18. 5,666 beneficiaries (5,293 women and 373 men) benefitted from actions to promote the importance of women's participation in decision-making spaces, to enhance their leadership and participation in their communities and rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies, and programmes. To date, 18% (42 out of 240) women are members of COCODES and the Municipal Urban and Rural Development Councils (COMODES).

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

By the end of the JP RWEE implementation period, 30% of rural women, compared to an initial 18%, participated in decision-making spaces in their organizations. During the programme, a total of 2,522 people (2,271 rural women and 251 men) received training in areas such as leadership, the roles and responsibilities of executive boards within organizations, the role of women within the COCODES executive board, and the management of projects targeting women regarding COCODES and COMODES. Women started recognizing the added value of associations and reflected upon current organizational structures. As a result, they progressively joined the board of directors in their productive organizations. Through the JP RWEE’s support, women now know how to elaborate projects for the benefit of their community, how to promote their participation in council meetings and how to motivate young women to start learning about these mechanisms of participation.

#### **Output 3.2: Rural women have greater organizational capacities to form, sustain and participate in popular organizations, cooperatives, and unions.**

- 120 members of the COCODES in the three municipalities strengthened their knowledge on the importance of women’s participation and, as a result, have been able to participate in spaces traditionally monopolized by men. Raising men’s awareness on women’s rights and on women’s role in decision-making spaces has helped in the process of managing community projects with women’s participation. Before, men predominantly requested projects relating to their own interests without considering the differing needs and preferences of women; now, women are able to voice their needs.
- A total of 2,414 people (2,002 women and 394 men), comprising 73 women-led productive organizations, received training on the importance of partnership, occupying board positions, and participating in decision-making spaces.
- 40% of the productive organizations applied gender policies within their organization. Mixed organizations, composed of both men and women, established gender policies and empowerment committees to promote women’s participation.

- 448 women participated in conventions for rural women and in exchange meetings with local authorities on the following topics: formulation and management of projects and leadership; project cycles and formulation based on equal conditions; project management mechanisms in the territories; and women's leadership.

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

- Recognition of both the importance of a holistic approach and the inclusion of men and boys in women's economic empowerment resulted in the implementation of the Gender Action Learning System (GALS) methodology in Guatemala. 289 people (269 women and 20 men) from 14 groups were directly trained through the GALS methodology and an additional 121 people were reached indirectly. The methodology created awareness on how development intervention should focus on people (who they want to be and what they want to do) rather than on goods (assets, infrastructure, value chains). By supporting families in creating a household vision and preparing an action plan, GALS aimed at facilitating behavioural changes that, in turn, would lead to improved livelihoods, increased productivity, increased assets, more investments in education, and fewer cases of domestic violence.
- 324 women participated in trainings on electoral rights. Initially, men were the main voters and women often did not even possess the identification documents required for voting. The training helped increase women's participation in exercising their right to vote and raised their interest in political issues affecting their communities. These important results became even more relevant in light of the presidential elections that took place during the JP RWEE's implementation period.
- 4,104 people (3,985 rural women and 119 men) received training in participation and decision-making mechanisms and gained the confidence and leadership skills necessary for participation in local governance. During the pandemic, webinars were conducted through social platforms to respect the COVID-19 restrictions.

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

To improve the gender-sensitive public policy environment for rural women, the JP RWEE focused on strengthening the capacity of 2,812 civil servants (2,530 women and 282 men). The JP RWEE strengthened the capacity of public officials at the municipal (DMM, municipalities, and representatives of government institutions), departmental, and central level (MAGA, MINECO, SEPREM, CONALFA, SCEP and institutional participants in the Technical Board,<sup>14</sup> and the National Coalition for Empowerment).

Support was provided to MAGA's Gender Unit and the for the implementation of the Institutional Policy for Gender Equality and its Strategy 2014-2023. To support women in increasing their livelihoods through business, entrepreneurship and employment, the National Coalition for Women's Economic Empowerment was created. This multi-sectoral partnership aimed to achieve financial inclusion and access to credit for women's entrepreneurship as a mechanism to reduce poverty. The coalition also promoted dialogue with the private sector to achieve productive inclusion of rural women. It is worth noting that this is the first time that such a coalition has placed women's economic empowerment on the public agenda.

As an initiative developed with MINECO, the direct support of the Ministry was achieved through workshops in which innovative techniques for weaving were shared. Rural women received support from the JP RWEE

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<sup>14</sup> Composition of the Technical Board is: MAGA, MINTRAB, MINEDUC, MINECO, SESAN, MIDES, MSPAS, MINFIN, SEGEPLAN, SAA, INE, INAB, FONTIERRAS, CONAP, RIC.

on improving the presentation of their products and were directly involved in the process of the packaging and labelling of their products. As a result, several organizations were able to sell their products through established companies such as *Casa de Los Gigantes*. Products, such as shampoo, are now sold in Guatemalan pharmacies, and Casa de Los Gigantes is currently in the negotiation process of distributing these products in other stores in Guatemala City.

#### **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.**

Through the implementation and dissemination of technical approaches, the JP RWEE contributed to increasing the capacity of government institutions to incorporating gender-sensitive methodologies into their training programmes. These methodologies included:

- Strengthening the technical capacities of the staff of the Municipal Rural Extension Agencies of the MAGA through the Milpa and Patio Hogar methodological guides. This enabled the MAGA to provide technical accompaniment to the JP RWEE women's groups and other participating families.
- Savings and loan groups.
- Nutrition box and the “Blue Box” mobile laboratory.
- Development of a methodological guide on the development of enterprises, businesses, and entrepreneurship.
- The Gender Active Learning System (GALS).
- Strengthening of government institutions (municipalities, Women’s Municipal Directorates (DMM), MAGA Gender Unit, Municipal Rural Extension Agencies, Executive Secretariat of the Presidency SCEP, Presidential Secretariat of Women (SEPREM), Ministry of Economy (MINECO), and National Statistics Institute (INE)).

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

As part of the aim to achieve transformative change on women's equality and empowerment in public policy, the JP RWEE supported the MAGA's Gender Unit in its strategic planning. It provided support in the strengthening of the MAGA’s implementation tools and in its prioritization of women. The JP RWEE implemented the following:

- Gender-related technical assistance for MAGA’s Gender Unit, facilitating training in:
  - Strategic planning and implementation of public policies.
  - Gender mainstreaming in rural extension actions.
  - Economic empowerment in rural development implementation models.
- The “learning paths for women’s empowerment” were validated and will be adapted according to the requirements of the MAGA’s Gender Unit.
- The Gender and Rural Advisory Services Assessment Tool (GRAST) was implemented in the municipalities of Tukurú, La Tinta and Panzós to identify achievements that led to recommendations to the MAGA for the improvement of the National Rural Extension System. The main objective of the GRAST is to help identify areas of rural advisory services provision that are working well and those that need improvement from a gender perspective. The tool takes into consideration the interactions between the enabling policy environment, the policies’ institutional mechanisms, the organizational culture of the service providers, staff members’ capacities and attitudes, and the experience of users of the services. This allows providers to identify concrete actions for ensuring that rural advisory services are more responsive to the needs of female and male farmers. Furthermore, it has the potential to be replicated at scale.

### **Output 4.3: An enabling environment is promoted to reflect rural women’s priorities in regional policy processes.**

The JP RWEE through the four agencies coordinated support to the MAGA Gender Unit (leader of the Technical Table) in a planned manner. Before the JP RWEE, the Unit requested support from the agencies directly to each agency and without a joint work plan aligned to its policy. The JP RWEE support consisted of:

- Strengthening the Technical Board for Rural Development with a Gender and Peoples' Perspective <sup>15</sup>, through:
  - Monitoring the process of institutionalization of the multi-sectoral mechanisms and assisting the strengthening of the advocacy processes of the Gender Unit.
  - Reinforcing inter-institutional articulation in areas such as: women's economic empowerment, access to land, productive technical assistance and associative commercialization, men's collaboration in domestic activities, childcare, and nutritional improvement.
  - Disseminating good practices in gender equality at the organizational level.
  - Elaborating on a Strategic Plan and promoting an institutionalization process.
- Participation on the board of directors of the rural women's organizations of the JP RWEE in the Regional Forum on Financial Inclusion, with the aim of promoting a more inclusive financial system. An additional aim was to improve the portfolio of financial services and products for women, and to enable them to access savings and affordable credit within the regulated financial system in formal banking. In this process, women obtained information about the financial system and learned about the advantages and disadvantages of acquiring credit, as well as the guarantees that must be presented to access them.

### **Qualitative assessment**

Ongoing monitoring of the programme, along with the results outlined above, show that, despite the hardship caused by the pandemic and natural disasters, rural women were still able to generate significant amounts of income, increase sales, and withstand the impact of shocks. Product diversification and diversity of income sources proved to be highly effective survival strategies during the COVID-19 pandemic. It was also observed that the women beneficiaries are now well informed about their rights and have the confidence to approach the relevant institution to demand services. The pandemic also showed the importance of collaboration in dealing with crises, recognizing local partners as well as the role of JP RWEE beneficiaries and community leaders, specifically women leaders, to coordinate and collaborate to ensure the voices of rural women are heard and their needs are met.

As part of the JP RWEE’s monitoring and evaluation strategy, a survey tool was developed to gather data on the gender-focused socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 context. The results of the assessment were used by the four agencies as a basis for developing response plans in the area. The representative sample for the survey was 300 women from 60 communities.

During the COVID-19 crisis when there was a need to respond rapidly to a continually evolving situation, strong inter-agency communication and collaboration took place, which ensured that the programme was able to adapt in a timely and flexible manner to the changing needs on the ground. This was a testament to the effectiveness of the partnership and collaboration that was achieved over the course of the JP RWEE.

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<sup>15</sup> The Technical Board for Rural Development with a Gender and People is an inter-institutional and multi-sectoral mechanism that promotes a cooperation strategy to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of policies, programmes, projects and, in general, all institutional actions in favour of integral rural development from the perspective of women and peoples. Representation within the Technical Board is institutional and takes place through the Gender Units of Ministries and Secretariats, endorsed by the highest-level authorities (15 government institutions).

**ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:**

	<u>Achieved</u> 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>			
<p><b>Indicator 1.1:</b> Percentage increase in the production of corn and beans  <b>Baseline:</b> 1.32 TM/Ha. Corn  0.77 TM/Ha. Bean  <b>Planned Target:</b> 10% increase in the production of corn and beans</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.2:</b> Percentage of households that improve their food security according to the ELCSA.  <b>Baseline:</b> 88% of households show a level of food insecurity by ELCSA metrics (1,015 households)  <b>Planned target:</b> 59.7% households that improve their food security according ELCSA (606 households)</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.3:</b> Percentage of women and their households that improve their nutrition according to the FCS (Food Consumption Score)  <b>Baseline:</b> 80% households with acceptable status. (FCS)  <b>Planned target:</b> 90% households that improve their nutrition according to the FCS</p>	<p>66.4% increase in corn production (2.19 MT/ha in corn)  39% increase in beans production (1.07 MT/ha in beans)</p> <p>Survey did not take place</p>	<p>The implementation of good agricultural practices in the management of corn and bean crops led to higher production</p> <p>The survey was delayed due to devastating storms and landslides in the programme areas in November 2020. Efforts to implement the survey were disrupted by COVID-19 related insecurity in 2021 and the survey was subsequently cancelled.</p>	<p>JP RWEE Bi-Annual and Annual Reports, M&amp;E reports.  Production’s register</p>
<b>Output 1.1: Rural women have increased access to resources, assets, and services critical for their food and nutrition security.</b>			

<p><b>Indicator 1.1.1:</b> Number of rural women utilizing improved production techniques  <b>Baseline:</b> N/A  <b>Planned Target:</b> 1,046 women and 428 men</p>	<p>1,372 people (1,237 women and 135 men). Technical assistance and investments provided to women's groups to improve the production of pigs and chickens for consumption and to increase production of cassava, sweet potato and plantain, tilapia and vegetables and generate surpluses.</p>	<p>The programme managed to involve more women throughout the implementation due to a strong community sensitization which uplifted beneficiaries' interest.</p>	<p>Participants' list  JP RWEE Bi-Annual and Annual Reports, M&amp;E reports, photographs</p>
<p><b>Indicator 1.1.2:</b> Number of rural women accessing innovative food processing plants  <b>Baseline:</b> 0  <b>Planned Target:</b> 2,076 people (1,499 women and 577 men)</p>	<p>2,459 (2,048 women and 411 men) technical assistance for agricultural and service enterprises for products (mill services, kernel hulling services, mill sealing machine, packing machine, solar dehydrator, and industrial stove),</p>		<p>Participants' list  JP RWEE Bi-Annual and Annual Reports, M&amp;E reports, photographs</p>
<p><b>Indicator 1.1.3:</b> Number of new best farm and backyard practices implemented  <b>Baseline:</b> 0  <b>Planned target:</b> 10 best farm and backyard practices (benefiting 1,237 rural women).</p>	<p>20 good practices (Benefiting 1,237 women)</p>	<p>The use of two methodological approaches: the milpa approach and the household yard approach increased the number of good practices developed.</p>	<p>Participants' list  JP RWEE Bi-Annual and Annual Reports, M&amp;E reports, photographs</p>
<p><b>Indicator 1.1.4:</b> Number of rural women trained in food security  <b>Baseline:</b> 0  <b>Planned target:</b> 380 trained women in food security</p>	<p>3,241 people (2,354 women and 887 men) trained in gender-sensitive food and nutrition security</p>	<p>Achieved target is higher than planned because it includes parents of children enrolled in school feeding programmes</p>	<p>Participants' list  JP RWEE Bi-Annual and Annual Reports, M&amp;E reports, photographs</p>

<p><b>Indicator 1.1.5:</b> Percentage of rural women trained in nutrition and proper use of foods including food preparation  <b>Baseline:</b> 0  <b>Planned target:</b> 50% of 380 rural women in nutrition and proper use of food, including preparation</p>	<p>100% (2,721 people: 1,296 women and 377 men) of rural women trained in nutrition and proper use of foods including food preparation.</p>	<p>Achieved target includes parents of children enrolled in school feeding programmes and cooking competition participants</p>	<p>Participants' list  JP RWEE Bi-Annual and Annual Reports, M&amp;E reports, photographs</p>
<p><b>Indicator 1.1.6:</b> Number of new best practices for improving biological utilization and consumption  <b>Baseline:</b> 0  <b>Planned target:</b> 5 new practices in self consumption-related</p>	<p>10 new practices on self consumption  4 new practices to prevent COVID-19.</p>	<p>The use of two methodological approaches for the implementation of production techniques (milpa approach and household yard approach).</p>	<p>Participants' list  JP RWEE Bi-Annual and Annual Reports, M&amp;E reports, photographs</p>
<p><b>Indicator 1.1.7:</b> Number of rural women accessing integrated services  <b>Baseline:</b> 0  <b>Planned target:</b> 2,076 people (1,499 women and 577 men)</p>	<p>3,525 people (2,499 women 1,026 men) participated in trainings on nutrition, health promotion, including sexual and reproductive health. 1,190 women. They were provided with infrastructure and basic equipment (greenhouse, macro-tunnels, agricultural inputs, and irrigation system) for vegetable production. Time-saving technologies</p>		<p>Participants' list  JP RWEE Bi-Annual and Annual Reports, M&amp;E reports, photographs</p>
<p><b>Output 1.2: Rural women have greater capacity to enhance and control local food security reserve</b></p>			

<p><b>Indicator 1.2.1:</b> Percentage reduction of post-harvest farm and storage losses  <b>Baseline:</b> 17% of targeted rural women had losses during postharvest  <b>Planned target:</b> 100% of targeted rural women reduced losses during postharvest, 10% reduction of post-harvest farm and storage losses</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.2.2:</b> Number of post-harvest practices for markets  <b>Baseline:</b> 0  <b>Planned Target:</b> 1 practice</p>	<p>100% of the women have managed to reduce post-harvest losses (857 women).  28.5% reduction in post-harvest losses.</p> <p>2 practices  Implementation: Drying grain (moisture meter) and use of plastic silos.</p>	<p>Target achieved</p> <p>Target achieved</p>	<p>JP RWEE Bi-Annual and Annual Reports, M&amp;E reports, photographs</p> <p>JP RWEE Bi-Annual and Annual Reports, M&amp;E reports, photographs</p>
<p><b>Outcome 2: Rural women have increased income to secure their livelihoods.</b></p>			
<p><b>Indicator 2.1.1:</b> Income generated by rural women’s cooperatives from their sales to WFP and other markets  <b>Baseline:</b> 0  <b>Planned Target:</b> US\$ 20,000 annual; Total US\$160,000</p> <p><b>Indicator 2.1.2:</b> Number of producer organizations that have increased their income through sales  <b>Baseline:</b> 0 POs  <b>Planned Target:</b> 20 POs of rural women.</p>	<p>The total cumulative monetary amount of sales and saving and loans made by JP RWEE  US\$ 1,042,664. US\$ 417,531 (gross from association sales and generated in sales of farm and backyard production groups). US\$ 625,133 generated in 51 savings groups.</p> <p>73 producer organizations of rural women</p>	<p>All groups and organizations generated sales</p>	<p>Sales register  Savings register  JP RWEE Bi-Annual and Annual Reports, M&amp;E reports</p> <p>Consulting reports  M&amp;E reports  Account books</p>

<p><b>Indicator 2.1.3:</b> Percentage of rural women belonging to organizations that increase their entrepreneurial skills through training  <b>Baseline:</b> 6%  <b>Planned Target:</b> 72% of rural women</p>	<p>73% of rural women (5,675 women)</p>	<p>Target achieved</p>	<p>Participants' list  JP RWEE Bi-Annual and Annual Reports, M&amp;E reports, photographs</p>
<p><b>Output 2.1: Rural women have enhanced entrepreneurship skills and value chains to access markets for their products</b></p>			
<p><b>Indicator 2.1.1:</b> Number of rural women's cooperatives procuring agricultural products and home-grown school meals through WFP programmes  <b>Baseline:</b>  <b>Planned Target:</b></p>	<p>497 rural women belonging to 10 organizations marketed their products to a school population of 1,166 people (Government's School Feeding Programme).</p>		<p>JP RWEE Bi-Annual and Annual Reports, M&amp;E reports, photographs</p>
<p><b>Indicator 2.1.2:</b> Percentage increase of sales of surpluses farm and backyard  <b>Baseline:</b> 0  <b>Planned Target:</b> 10% increase of sales</p>	<p>There was a 48% increase in sales from farm and backyard surpluses (333 women achieved up to US\$ 112 monthly).</p>	<p>Implementation of inclusive business models</p>	<p>JP RWEE Bi-Annual and Annual Reports, M&amp;E reports, photographs</p>
<p><b>Indicator 2.1.3:</b> Number of women that have strengthened their business skills  <b>Baseline:</b> 0  <b>Planned Target:</b> 4,286 rural women</p>	<p>5,675 women and 167 men strengthened their business skills</p>	<p>The number of participants was scaled up through the development of online training courses.</p>	<p>Participants' list  JP RWEE Bi-Annual and Annual Reports, M&amp;E reports, photographs</p>
<p><b>Indicator 2.1.4:</b> Number of productive harvest technologies and practices for marketing  <b>Baseline:</b> 0  <b>Planned Target:</b> 2 practices 1 technology</p>	<p>- 2 technologies (shelling machines, mills)  - 3 practices for marketing (Promotion of services at home, promotion of products in municipal fairs Liqatenamit, anchor companies).</p>	<p>Target achieved</p>	<p>JP RWEE Bi-Annual and Annual Reports, M&amp;E reports, photographs</p>

<b>Output 2.2: Rural women have increased access to decent wage employment opportunities</b>			
<p><b>Indicator 2.2.1:</b> Number of rural women’s cooperatives providing paid ecological services  <b>Baseline:</b> 0  <b>Planned Target:</b> 700 people (525 rural women and 175 men)</p>	<p>700 people (525 rural women and 175 men) benefited by lighting their homes, reducing the costs and risks of using other types of supplies (such as candles or gas) and charging their mobile devices (Tablet, mobile phones) as part of bridging the technology gap for women).</p>	<p>Target achieved</p>	<p>Photos and record  Participant’s list  Report</p>
<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>			
<p><b>Indicator 3.1.1:</b> Proportion of rural women elected representatives in rural councils  <b>Baseline:</b> 5% rural women elected representatives in rural councils.  <b>Planned target:</b> 5% of 240 rural women are part of rural councils (COCODES/COMUDES)  <b>Baseline:</b> No data  <b>Planned Target:</b> 708 people (535 women and 173 men) local governance (COCOSAN, COMUSAN, CODESAN)</p>	<p>18% (42 out of 240) women are part of COCODES and the Municipal Urban and Rural Development Councils COMUDES. 701 people (532 women and 169 men). Women's participation and leadership development in Food and Nutrition Security in local governance processes was strengthened. (COCOSAN, COMUSAN, CODESAN).</p>		<p>Minutes of Development Council meetings  Participats' list  Photos and records;  Participants’ list  JP RWEE Bi-Annual y Annual Reports, M&amp;E reports, photographs</p>
<p><b>Indicator 3.1.2:</b> Proportion of POs led by women  <b>Baseline:</b> 92% of 69 producers’ organizations are led by women  <b>Planned Target:</b> 100% of POs are led by women</p>	<p>100% of POs led by women</p>	<p>Target achieved</p>	<p>Participants’ list  JP RWEE Bi-Annual and Annual Reports, M&amp;E reports, photographs</p>

<p><b>Indicator 3.1.3:</b> Evidence of rural women’s empowerment in intrahousehold decision making  <b>Baseline:</b> 11% rural women  <b>Planned Target:</b> 20% rural women</p> <p><b>Indicator 3.1.5:</b> Number of rural women who have strengthened their capacities to advocate and manage Development Councils  <b>Baseline:</b> 0  <b>Planned Target:</b> 400 women</p>	<p>Survey did not take place</p> <p>2,522 people (2,271 rural women and 251 men) strengthened their capacities to promote and manage projects in the Development Councils</p>	<p>Explained under indicator 1.3</p> <p>Leadership from organizations, DMM and councils members were interested in strengthening their capacities on the subject</p>	
<p><b>Output 3.1: Rural women, including young women have enhanced confidence and leadership skills to participate in local governance</b></p>			
<p><b>Indicator 3.1.1:</b> Percentage of women who take part in decision-making spaces at the organizational level  <b>Baseline:</b> 18% of women participants  <b>Planned target:</b> 25% of women participants</p>	<p>30% of rural women who take part in decision-making spaces</p>		<p>Participants’ list  JP RWEE Bi-Annual and Annual Reports, M&amp;E reports, photographs</p>
<p><b>Output 3.2: Rural women have greater organizational capacities to form, sustain and participate into POs, cooperatives, and unions</b></p>			
<p><b>Indicator 3.2.1:</b> Number of informal rural women’s groups who join formally registered POs, cooperatives, and unions  <b>Baseline:</b> 0  <b>Planned Target:</b> 5 formal groups</p> <p><b>Indicator 3.2.2:</b> Number of POs, cooperatives and unions that adopt a gender policy/strategy and/or a women’s quota for their board  <b>Baseline:</b> 0  <b>Planned Target:</b> 20% organizations</p>	<p>2,414 people (2,002 women and 394 men) comprise 73 women-led productive organizations, each of which has an organizational structure</p> <p>40% productive organizations implement gender policies in the Organization.</p>	<p>All organizations that were initially formed by men and women established gender policies.</p>	<p>Certificates of municipal registrations.  Participants’ list  JP RWEE Bi-Annual y Annual Reports, M&amp;E reports, photographs</p> <p>Gender policies in the Organization</p>

<b>Output 3.4: Rural women, including young women have enhanced awareness on their rights in a more supportive community/local environment</b>			
<p><b>Indicator 3.4.2:</b> Number of women who know the mechanisms of participation and decision-making at community, district, and national organizational level <b>Baseline:</b> 0 <b>Planned Target:</b> 380 people (200 women/180 men)</p>	<p>289 people (269 women and 20 men) from 14 groups were trained directly in the application of the GALS methodology, who subsequently reached 121 other people. 4,104 people (3,985 rural women and 119 men) have been trained to understand participation and decision-making mechanisms, and they have gained confidence and leadership abilities to participate in local governance.</p>	<p>Due to COVID-19 restrictions, it was not possible to develop the replication of the GALS methodology in the other households.</p>	<p>“Support for the implementation of GALS in Guatemala Mrs. Ana Lucía Moreno /IFAD” Consultancy Reports) Participants’ list, JP RWEE Bi-Annual y Annual Reports, photographs</p>
<p><b>Indicator 3.4.3:</b> Number of rural women who gain knowledge of their rights <b>Baseline:</b> 270 rural women <b>Planned Target:</b> 713 women/39 men</p>	<p>813 people (778 women and 35 men) received training on their rights</p>	<p>Target overachieved</p>	<p>Participants’ list JP RWEE Bi-Annual and Annual Reports, M&amp;E reports, photographs</p>
<b>Outcome 4: A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women</b>			
<p><b>Indicator 4.1.1:</b> Number of policies and strategies that contribute to women’s productive and entrepreneurial development, guaranteeing their access to resources, goods and services of government budgets and donor funding <b>Baseline:</b> 0 <b>Planned Target:</b> 1</p>	<p>1 policy and 1 strategy that contribute to women’s productive (MAGA’s Gender Unit and the implementation of the Institutional Policy for Gender Equality and its Strategic -2014-2023-.)</p>	<p>Target achieved</p>	<p>MAGA’s reports Agreements with governmental institutions. - National mechanism related to the Specific Cabinet for Women (GEM), economic empowerment Area.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 4.1.2:</b> Updated system of gender indicators that is internationally comparable <b>Baseline:</b> 0 <b>Planned Target:</b> 1</p>	<p>Technical assistance to the National Institute of Statistics - INE- and the Presidential Secretariat for Women -SEPREM</p>	<p>Technical assistance for the design and implementation of the Satellite Account for Unpaid Household Work for the National Statistical System,</p>	<p>INE’s reports SEPREM’s reports “Valuation of unpaid work by households in Guatemala” (Unpaid work commission led by SEPREM)</p>

		with international comparability to make visible the contribution of women unpaid household work, in coordination with the National Statistical Institute, the Bank of Guatemala and the Presidential Secretariat for Women, Guatemala being one of the five countries in the region that has this type of measurement.	
<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.</b>			
<b>Indicator 4.1.1:</b> Number of alternative methodologies that contribute to women’s economic empowerment at the local level and comply with PNPDIM political guidelines <b>Baseline:</b> 0 <b>Planned Target:</b> 4	4 methodologies. MAGA's Gender Unit and the implementation of the Institutional Policy for Gender Equality and its Strategic -2014-2023-.)	Target achieved	MAGA Gender Unit’s Reports
<b>Indicator 4.1.2:</b> Number of government institutions with initiatives that promote women’s economic rights in their programs, projects and activities <b>Baseline:</b> 1 institution <b>Planned Target:</b> 1 government institution and 1 national mechanism	4 institutions (Municipalities (Municipal Women's Directorates); Gender Unit MAGA; Executive Secretariat of the Presidency SCEP; Presidential Secretariat of the Presidency SEPREM)	Target achieved	
<b>Output 4.2: Greater availability of tools and data to track progress in the economic empowerment of rural women</b>			
<b>Indicator 4.2.1:</b> Number of countries where the women’s empowerment in agriculture index is piloted	WEAI baseline was conducted in 2015 with a representative of the population of the Polochic Valley. The endline was cancelled as outlined under indicator 1.3	Target achieved	WEAI report

<p><b>Indicator 4.2.2:</b> Number of technical assistances tools for accelerating the empowerment of rural women  <b>Baseline:</b> 0  <b>Planned Target:</b> 3</p>	<p>3 tools for the improvement of services and advice on gender issues.  1. Learning routes for improving the participation and economic empowerment of rural women to be used by rural extension staff - MAGA-; 2. Methodology for strengthening women's participation in productive organizations (gender equality commissions for mixed organizations and empowerment commissions for women's organizations).  3. GRAST.</p>	<p>Through MAGA gender unit, it was possible to implement 3 additional criteria to strengthen institutional capacity on gender and women empowerment</p>	<p>Fact sheet; Methodology systematisation document</p>
<p><b>Indicator 4.2.3:</b> Number of criteria used to ensure women's access to services provided by institutions  <b>Baseline:</b> 0  <b>Planned Target:</b> 2</p>	<p>5 criteria (applied in the learning path process)</p>	<p>Planned target was overachieved thanks to the use of social platforms for virtual workshops due to the pandemic.</p>	
<p><b>Indicator 4.2.4:</b> Number of officers trained public sector  <b>Baseline:</b> 0  <b>Planned Target:</b> 854 people (650 rural women, 204 men)</p>	<p>2,812 civil servants (2,530 women and 282 men) (the target population identified were public officials at municipal (DMM, municipalities, and representatives of government institutions) departmental and central level</p>		<p>Participants' list  JP RWEE annual reports</p>

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

**Indicator 4.3.1:** Number of regional dialogue mechanisms on agriculture, rural development and land that involve rural women's groups  
**Baseline:** 0  
**Planned Target:** 1

MAGA's Gender Unit, which leads the Technical Board for Rural Development with a Focus on Gender and Peoples  
National Coalition for Women's Economic Empowerment.

### iii) Evaluation, Best Practices and Lessons Learned

#### Evaluation

A global level final evaluation was carried out, which included primary data collection at field level in Guatemala. Key findings related to Guatemala included:<sup>16</sup>

- Women involved in JP RWEE were more resilient to the impact of COVID-19, mainly thanks to access to Savings and Credit Groups. In addition, recruiting and training trainers and facilitators locally (sometimes amongst former beneficiaries) was a key element for sustainability, together with the establishment of linkages external markets, and in general other existing services. On the other hand, sustainability remains challenging when beneficiaries need support to buy inputs or provide feeding to animals.
- Another important step for **sustainability** was that some of the approaches have been taken up by MAGA, such as agricultural technologies that help farmers increase productivity and efficiency.
- **Community savings and credit modality** is well established and widespread in Guatemala, and it is considered a fundamental element to achieve women's economic empowerment and increase their resilience. Savings and credit groups are an important space to carry out training and capacity building activities and to support to establish links with the market, but their real potential is to give women the opportunity to organize themselves.
- The support of JP RWEE in Guatemala to **rural community groups** (such as Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA), farmer groups, self-help groups, and artisanal cooperatives) led to important achievements such as more marketable products and higher yields. The groups provided women with financial, business and moral support to focus on long term goals for their households. *'There are many benefits we have had of participating in the partnership and savings group. We have learned how to manage our money better and to plan what to do with our income. For example: we want our daughters to study so they have a profession, not like us; we didn't have any education. We strive so our family has better health and nutrition. We have learned to care about ourselves, thanks to the training we receive we know more about our sexuality, our rights, and the nutrition we must have.'*
- One important result is that they opened up new market opportunities, for example the shampoo produced by the Campur community group is now for sale in local pharmacies and the Fabric produced by Cucanha artisans are now sold by an international retailer based in Antigua, a popular tourist destination. This is in addition to the agricultural product that are now sold to the Ministry of Education for school feedings programmes.

Knowledge management contributed to the replication and scale up of the methodologies. The following instruments were generated during the implementation of the JP RWEE:

- An impact study on JP RWEE's contribution to the closing of gender gaps. This study consisted of an analysis of rural women's perception of the impact on their quality of life. It specifically focused on 333 beneficiaries whose livelihoods depend on their entrepreneurship.
- Systematization of Q'eqchi indigenous women's experiences in time and effort saving technologies in agricultural work.
- Systematization of the processes that connect entrepreneurial women's groups with local markets to commercialize their products.
- Strategic communication for the socialization of the systematization of processes that connect entrepreneurial women and good practices to ensure livelihoods.

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<sup>16</sup> FAO, IFAD, UN Women, WFP and Mokoro, 2021. Accelerating Progress towards Rural Women's Economic Empowerment in Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Nepal, Niger and Rwanda from 2014 to 2020: Final evaluation, Rome.

- Report on the application of GRAST in the municipalities of Tukurú, La Tinta and Panzós, to generate achievements that led to recommendations to the MAGA to improve the National Rural Extension System.
- Evaluation and generation of an adapted methodological kit to scale up the GALS methodology in the context of Guatemala.
- Validation strategy for the “Learning paths for the empowerment of rural women” in support of MAGA’s Gender Unit.
- Policy brief: a scaling up and financial inclusion strategy through community savings and credit unions.
- Report on the Financial Inclusion Regional Forum.
- National Consultation report between key JP RWEE actors.

## Best Practices

Towards the end of the programme, a multi-stakeholder forum was conducted to present the different methodologies used in the framework of the JP RWEE, including:

- i. Community savings and loans groups
- ii. Organizational strengthening focused on savings and credit unions
- iii. GALS
- iv. Gender mainstreaming in agricultural extension, and the socialization of the toolbox.

Key actors from the government and partner organizations, as well as women’s organizations, participated in the learning event. The forum took place prior to a National Consultation, in which six virtual meetings were carried out with focal points from the agencies, central government actors, territorial actors, beneficiary organizations’ managers and members, promoters, and technical field staff (86% of the participants were women and 14% men).

Technical assistance tools implemented during the JP RWEE were published in a virtual platform: [www.empoderamientoeconomico.com](http://www.empoderamientoeconomico.com). The platform specifically focuses on women in rural areas with low levels of schooling and provides tools with didactic methodologies that facilitate their economic empowerment. The webpage is one of the first knowledge repositories developed which disseminates the methodologies implemented during the programme period. Both governmental institutions as well as NGOs working on gender equality and women’s empowerment will be using it. Furthermore, women throughout the country can access the teaching models remotely. The webpage was promoted as a means of knowledge transfer by the Ministry of Economy through the National Coalition for Women's Economic Empowerment in order to disperse learning with a gender and women’s empowerment approach to other parts of the country.

Throughout the implementation period, the JP RWEE has been able to analyse the intervention strategies and the added value of each agency’s contribution to improving the lives of rural women and promoting gender and empowerment issues on the public agenda. The following good practices emerged from this analysis:

- Importance of developing capacities at three levels: (i) develop capacities of rural women producers to cope with their situation of self-consumption at the individual level; (ii) include organisations that range from informal to registered at the collective level; and (iii) recognize organizations at the municipal level.
- Institutional strengthening to achieve the capacities installed in the institutions, in order to ensure that the needs of rural women are considered at the municipal, territorial and national levels.
- Strengthening coordination and awareness-raising mechanisms in the recognition of the responsibilities of public officials for the proper implementation of public policies.

- Investment in innovation and technology to contribute to closing the gap that exists in rural women's access to these resources and promote women's access to digital learning.
- Strengthening women's associative capacity leads to a positive impact on women's capacity to generate income and community savings. It also increases their capacity to respond to unexpected situations such as natural disasters. In the case of the COVID-19 pandemic, women managed to go ahead in an organised way, supporting one another and further strengthening their organisational structure.

## **Lessons Learned**

- The need for rural women to have access to communication technologies was amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, the introduction of ICT during the pandemic provided skills, knowledge, and new opportunities for rural women.
- Knowledge and experience exchanges with joint programmes in other areas of the country. Exchanging information with others is a valuable mechanism for the transfer of methodological and technological knowledge, and also contributes to awareness-raising and changes in attitudes.
- Assertive communication among women is important for the strengthening of the internal organization of producer organizations and contributes to building trust among women.
- Inter-agency coordination for the efficient use of resources (use of vehicles for joint visits, agricultural inputs and coordinated activities) and upscaling actions allowed for an integral way of working and contributed to the achievement of the JP RWEE objectives.
- Every United Nations agency has different implementation and procurement modalities. It is essential to identify mechanisms to streamline these processes so that they do not impact joint programme development.
- A more robust monitoring and evaluation strategy that is progressively and strategically linked to knowledge management is needed.
- It is important to develop an ongoing mechanism for experience exchanges amongst countries to maximize continual improvement throughout the entire initiative.

#### iv) A Specific Story

MARTA ALICIA BENAVENTE, "Illuminating women's lives".



The majority of the population in the Polochic region lack electricity supply, which limits their activity after sunset. At the same time, the region benefits from sunshine for most of the year. To address this situation, the JP RWEE partnered with Barefoot College and the Government of India to provide two rural women with the opportunity to undertake a solar technology training scholarship in New Delhi, India.

FAO, IFAD, UN Women and WFP collaborated to raise awareness in the JP RWEE communities about solar technology and the effects on the environment as a consequence of burning firewood and using other products that both damage the environment and affect people's health in order to bring light to people's homes.

Marta Benavente from the San Julián community, supported by the Municipality of Tukurú, accepted the challenge of leaving the community to undertake the training and returning with skills in renewable solar technology.

"This opportunity has been an experience to know and learn, even though it was not easy, and I was afraid to travel because I haven't left my community before. I wanted to do it because I know that, as a woman, I have to take advantage of opportunities," says Marta Benavente, who installed solar systems in 100 homes.

"Even though many people told me I couldn't do it, because technology is for men, not women, I knew I could. JP RWEE taught me that women can do much more than just housework. And now my community knows that and so do my daughters," says Marta.

Now people in the community save on the cost of kerosene, firewood, and candles to light their homes, which they can spend on food. They also have an electricity connection to recharge their mobile phones and avoid travelling to the city centre to pay for this service.