

## Country programme workplan in Nepal January 2020- September 2021

*Total budget requested*

**US\$ 945,000**

*Beneficiaries to be reached with  
this contribution*

**Direct beneficiaries:**

3,002 rural women farmers, 2,333 existing rural women who have been supported through the JP RWEE 1,475 in Sarlahi and 1,525 in Rautahat districts

**Indirect beneficiaries:**

12,908 family members of 3,002 rural women<sup>1</sup> including men and boys, and 14,980<sup>2</sup> rural women farmers who are expected to receive the transfer of knowledge and skills through direct beneficiaries of the JP RWEE

*Duration of project:*

**January 2020 – September 2021**

### 1. Background Information

In Nepal, with a total population of 28.8 million<sup>3</sup>, 83 per cent live in the rural areas, and 52 per cent of them are women.<sup>4</sup> Despite women's increased participation (84.3 per cent) in the agricultural sector, which sustains nearly 80 per cent of the population, structural factors<sup>5</sup> continue to limit their productivity, livelihoods, voice and agency in both the public and private spheres. Prevailing gender-discriminatory social norms and cultural practices restrict women's mobility, limit their decision-making power, and limit their access to formal support mechanisms and schemes. The recent trend in out-migration of men has led to women stepping into more meaningful leadership roles, whilst still bearing the burden of unequal household and care work.

Nepal has moved towards a federal system from a unitary state and devolved power to the provinces. The newly elected officials, both men and women, are confronted with the challenge – and opportunity – of establishing inclusive local governance, which can advance Nepali women's economic empowerment and leadership.

The empowerment of rural women in agriculture will support the Government of Nepal in achieving its vision for inclusive economic growth.<sup>6</sup> The agricultural sector is an important source of productive activities, incomes

<sup>1</sup> The average size of a household in Nepal is 5.3 persons per house hold. The number of indirect beneficiaries was calculated by multiplying 3,002 direct beneficiaries by 5.3 and subtracting 3,002

<sup>2</sup> One trained rural woman will transfer her knowledge and skills to about 10 other rural women.

<sup>3</sup> Government of Nepal: Central Bureau of Statistics, 2018.

<sup>4</sup> Government of Nepal: Central Bureau of Statistics, 2012. National Population and Housing Census 2011. 83 per cent counts as those living in administratively designated VDCs as opposed to municipalities.

<sup>5</sup> 'Structural discrimination' refers to rules, norms, routines, patterns of attitudes and behaviours in institutions and other societal structures that represent obstacles to groups or individuals in achieving the same rights and opportunities that are available to the majority of the population, as per the definition used by Najcevska, M. (for OHCHR) in her paper 'Structural Discrimination – Definitions, Approaches and Trends (Summary)

<sup>6</sup> As outlined in the Government of Nepal's Approach Paper for the 15<sup>th</sup> Periodic Development Plan

and livelihoods for women in rural areas in Nepal. Strengthening rural women's economic potential and leadership abilities and increasing rural productivity will directly contribute to Nepal's efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda: Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 1: End Poverty, Goal 2: Zero Hunger, and Goal 5: Gender Equality.

In this context, the joint programme "Accelerating Progress Towards Economic Empowerment of Rural Women" (JP RWEE), initiated in 2015, with four UN agencies - UN Women, FAO, IFAD and WFP. The JP aims to advance rural women's agriculture-led economic empowerment and leadership capacity in the context of the new federal architecture, through supporting local government officials and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD) for the gender responsive implementation of the Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS) 2015-2035.

#### Summary of results achieved as of June 2019:

Following the approval of the 2018/2019 workplan, JP RWEE narrowed its geographic focus to two districts (Rautahat and Sarlahi) in Province 2, formally phasing out from Sindhuli district after May 2018 due to funding constraints. The number of direct participants (rural women farmers) in the JP RWEE subsequently decreased to 2,333 (1,142 in Sarlahi and 1,191 in Rautahat), reflecting the change in the geographic coverage. Rural women in Sindhuli (1,292) who previously received support through JP RWEE are continuing their vegetable production on a self-help basis, by applying their learning and building on the knowledge, skills and technologies gained from the JP RWEE. This can be considered as a positive indication of the increased agency and confidence among RWEE women farmers in Sindhuli. The key results as of May 2019 include:

- 2,333 rural women farmers (27.65 per cent Janajatis, 9.39 per cent Dalits, 7.37 per cent Muslims, 45 per cent Madhesis and 10.59 per cent Brahmins and Chhetris) in two districts benefitted from kitchen gardening and commercial fresh vegetable production. Their vegetable production was increased by 329 per cent per household, compared to the baseline. The total volume of the annual harvest was 2340 Metric Tons (mt.) with 2,333 women in 2,333 households. The average agricultural production per household had increased to 1003 kg from the baseline of 234 kg;
- 2,333 rural women were able to improve the nutrition security at home by consuming more vegetables which were home-grown, with the support of the JP RWEE or purchased with income generated through the JP RWEE. In total, 875 mt. of vegetables were consumed by the JP RWEE participants and their family members;
- 1,751 rural women, out of 2,333 supported, earned a total of NPR 27,471,862 (USD 245,240) by selling 1465 mt. fresh vegetables in nearby markets;
- Awareness of rural women farmers and other community members on women's rights and gender issues in the community was increased through a series of community-based discussions organized as part of an action-oriented "*Sahi Ho!*" advocacy campaign; and
- A common understanding was fostered among 111 government representatives, local level policy makers and other stakeholders on existing gaps and challenges in implementing the government's policies, programmes and the delivery of agriculture extension services in the new federal government structure, through two policy dialogues.

#### Priorities of the implementation from January 2020 – September 2021:

Year 2020 started with an extraordinary global health crisis. With the continuing spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, countries around the world are facing an unexpected challenge wherein a health-related humanitarian crisis has evolved simultaneously into a socio-economic crisis. This has led to an unprecedented cessation of economic activities and erosion of income opportunities for millions, especially those in the informal sector. According to Nepal Labour Force Survey 2018, 90.5 per cent women are engaged in the informal sector. They are highly affected with the current crisis. Women's contribution in the agriculture is still considered as informal and does not contribute to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country.

JP RWEE's working districts Rautahat and Sarlahi have higher male migration rate. Many of them also leave the country through illegal and informal routes. In this context, at the household level, the sources of income from foreign employment will decline due to the recession in destination countries. Given the uncertainties of the impact of COVID-19, establishing, and maintaining the food supply chain focusing on the most disadvantaged groups, will be crucial. The full impact on agriculture will also be substantial if the lockdown continues. The partial impact is already visible in the vegetable market, poultry farms, milk sales among others.

Sixty-seven per cent of the women workers are in the informal sector, which is likely to be affected the most. Women are a majority of workers in agricultural and the non-agricultural jobs in rural areas. In the absence of male members, women were heavily engaged in the agriculture sector taking care of both household and farm activities. Male members returning to country in the COVID-19 context have gradually started taking up the decision-making roles which used to be taken by women in their absence. In the current lockdown context, agriculture is taken as one of the major options for sustainable livelihood.

In the current context, it is also important to understand the differential impact of COVID on excluded groups, for instance, Dalits in Terai and Hills are surviving on the lower end as daily wage earners in agriculture. Women will have to manage larger households with reduced resources. In the process of managing food, as women and girls eat at the end, they may get a lesser amount of food. Their unpaid care burden has also been increasing. Moreover, alcoholism may increase and with that, violence against women and children. At the same time, it is important to recognize the specific challenges that women are likely to face during these times -including increased care burden, specific needs of persons with disabilities and the possible need for emergency health services for Gender Based Violence (GBV).

Women managing smaller farms need help in access to credit, input, and technological services. With limited prospects of non-agricultural sector reviving, maximum efforts should be made to increase agricultural productivity.

With an analysis of the lessons learned, results achieved in 2018 and 2019 and the new federal governance structure and current extra-ordinary health crisis, the JP RWEE in Nepal will focus on facilitating rural women's sustained access to the local markets, creating an enabling environment at home and in the community and mobilising support from local government representatives to ensure rural women's leadership in the agricultural value chain and also linking the existing work with the current COVID-19 context. The JP RWEE team in Nepal will not make any changes in the existing activities, however, closely link the activities with the current and any other humanitarian crisis context. During the programme cycle from January 2020 to June 2021, the JP RWEE aims to:

- Advance more rural women into commercial farming through provision of materials, equipment and technical assistance to increase cultivation of cash crops;
- Support rural women farmers' participation and leadership in value chains to access the local markets through provision of storage facilities, tools, entrepreneurship and other soft skills development support such as financial literacy, leadership development, etc.;
- Engage members of families and communities, and community leaders to bring about behavioural changes that support rural women farmers' economic empowerment; and
- Contribute to policy advocacy at the federal and local levels to secure political commitment to implement Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) responsive agricultural development in the context of the federal governance structure.

A more detailed description of proposed interventions is provided in Annex 1: Workplan.

## 2. Project area and target groups

Given the short programme cycle and size of the available funding, JP RWEE will maintain its geographic focus in Sarlahi and Rautahat districts and go deeper with the current beneficiary group to ensure the sustainability and impact of the programme. These two districts are much behind the national average in terms of women's empowerment according to the Gender Development Index<sup>7</sup>. Planned interventions will continue to directly support 3,002 rural women farmers, including 2,333 women who are existing JP RWEE participants, and 771 new rural women farmers, consolidating the results and capitalising on lessons learned so far. Engaging family and community members proved essential in creating an enabling environment for rural women to enter and participate in agricultural value chains. Thus, in this phase, the joint programme aims to expand this work by involving and influencing a total of 12,900 family members of rural women including men and boys. In addition, the scope of technical support to rural women farmers will continue to improve their capacity and encourage the transfer of knowledge and skills to other rural women farmers in the wider community through interactions and peer-to-peer learning. It is estimated that additional 14,980 rural women farmers will receive the transfer of knowledge and skills through direct beneficiaries of the JP RWEE.

## 3. Description of activities by component

Based on the results and recommendations of the current cycle of JP RWEE, programme activities will primarily focus on achieving Outcome 2 and 4. In particular, they will facilitate the value chain development of agriculture production, access to local markets and engagement with the government at the federal and local levels for GESI and gender responsive policies that support rural women farmers' economic empowerment.

### Outcome 1: Improved food and nutrition security of rural women farmers

The JP RWEE will accelerate the commercialisation of subsistence farming by strengthening technical capacity of rural women farmers on commercial vegetable, maize wheat and rice production. It aims to strengthen and upscale their knowledge and skills on kitchen gardening for commercial vegetable farming and major cereal crops with the provision of basic inputs such as seeds and required technical support services. Planned activities will be targeted to integrated pest management (IPM) and off-season winter and summer vegetable cultivation. The provision of training will also enhance capabilities at the farm level in post-harvest handling of vegetables to reduce losses. Commercial off-season vegetable farming requires more plastic tunnels to be constructed to ensure a stable supply of vegetables to the market. On-farm training will be organized, where members of RWEE women farmers' group will have an opportunity to observe critical stages of seasonal and off-season vegetable cultivation and learn about the efficient use of water and soil fertility management. The JP will replicate from poly-house farming systems, in conjunction with the use of more efficient micro-irrigation systems for sustained production and supply of vegetable crops. Based on recommendations of the Programme Steering Committee (PSC) members of the JP RWEE, wheat, maize and rice productions are proposed in this work plan as additional crops to implement in 200-hectare, 100-hectare and 300-hectare lands in two districts respectively. This intervention will enable farmers to increase the yield of above-mentioned crops by 25 per cent by introducing high yielding varieties and crop management practices of these cereal crops. In 2020, 771 members of newly formed rural women's groups received orientation in vegetable farming and vegetable farming practices. In order to further develop this established vegetable farming practice and achieve greater access to markets and sustainable income, farmers will be supported into developing their small vegetable businesses into commercial farming. The training provided will equip them with the necessary knowledge and skills to adopt commercial vegetable farming technology.

Programme interventions under Outcome 1 will be implemented by FAO.

### Outcome 2: Rural women have Increased income to secure their livelihoods

<sup>7</sup> Human Development Report 2014

In order to improve rural women farmers' livelihoods and create sustainable income generation opportunities, efforts must be intensified to facilitate their sustained access to the local markets. The JP RWEE aims to support rural women farmers in a comprehensive and holistic manner. While the marketing potential of processed agricultural foods/products in the neighboring local markets was explored, the JP RWEE decided to prioritize fresh vegetables as the main commodity for rural women to sell because of the high price competition of processed agricultural foods/products with cheap Indian products, which are abundant in the local markets. In order to support rural women's supply of fresh vegetables to the local markets, the JP RWEE will support to construct an agri-product collection/storage facilities in both districts near the selling/market-outlet which is being constructed with the support of the JP RWEE (the construction of a selling/market-outlet was included in the JP RWEE Work Plan 2018/2019). A collection/storage facility will enable rural women farmers to collect and store their agricultural products for an appropriate duration and collectively support to the schools under Home Grown School Feeding modality and sell to the market in a larger quantity. It will also contribute to reduction of post-harvest losses. Basic tools for scaling/weighing, an orientation on vegetable market promotion and an exposure visit to other vegetable market centres will also be offered to selected rural women farmers. When constructing a collection/storage facility, the JP RWEE will adopt WFP's Cash Assistance for Assets (CFA) approach in which an estimated 300 rural women will get short-term wage employment through their engagement in the construction as unskilled labourers. These collection/storage facilities will also benefit other rural women farmers and community members in the vicinity. In addition to the support to improve rural women's physical access to the markets, the JP RWEE will also focus on the support to make women's participation and access to markets more meaningful and gainful from an empowerment perspective. For this purpose, the JP RWEE will provide technical assistance to rural women farmers to develop their entrepreneurship and other soft skills. The soft skills development support aims to strengthen JP RWEE women farmers' capacity and ability to confidently engage with various actors in the local agriculture value chains (e.g. vendors and buyers), and, also, to effectively mobilize the support from their family members, especially husbands and in-laws. Lessons from the field have proved that the support from the family is essential for rural women farmers to leverage their increased agriculture production and earning capacity to their empowerment and to support them in re-negotiating the gender division of domestic and care work. In this regard, sensitization/awareness raising activities will be conducted, specifically targeting members of RWEE women's families, community leaders and other key local value chain actors (e.g. vendors and buyers) to create an enabling environment for rural women's access to the local markets. Financial literacy trainings will also be provided to support women's financial planning and decision-making, and increased control over their own income.

Representatives from the women's farmers group whom the JP RWEE has been supporting since 2020, will visit model commercial vegetable farms to learn about off-season vegetable production technology and practices, as well as group management skills adopted by the women farmers. Alongside skills development, they will also receive critical inputs for large scale farming, such as small irrigation schemes, drudgery reduction machinery/tools, and equipment which will enable a reduction of post-harvest losses and better quality vegetables. This in turn will lead to greater income generation opportunities and improved livelihoods. The group members will be provided with 'on the spot' group management training and will be registered with the local government (rural municipality) offices. Representatives of the cooperatives will be trained on "business plan preparation", which will help to develop the entrepreneurship skills and leadership competencies within the women's groups. Registering with the local municipality will enable access to support, information and opportunities which are not available to informal groups.

As one of the entry points for RWEE women to have access to the local markets, the JP RWEE, in partnership with local governments, will pilot WFP's Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) initiative with selected rural women farmers' groups and community schools.<sup>8</sup> The HGSF links local smallholder farmers with the

<sup>8</sup> The HGSF initiative has been implemented within the wider framework of WFP's ongoing technical assistance to the government for the effective management of the government-led National School Meal Programme. The HGSF has been



government-led school feeding programme. Rural women farmers (cooperative members), local-government officials and school management representatives will all receive training on HGSF and the Menu Planning Tool to plan and manage the provision of nutritionally balanced school meals using locally procured ingredients. A formal contract will be established between select community schools and cooperatives for managed supply of food commodities based on the aggregated purchasing demand. In addition, technical support will be provided in formulation of municipal level HGSF operational procedures. This activity will contribute to women leveraging public procurement and a localized sustainable market for rural women farmers that results in improved local economy. Additional activities will also assist in linking the input and output marketing of vegetable production with wholesalers and retailers. Moreover, additional irrigation facilities will be added by installing small and micro irrigation schemes (shallow tube well installation with pump set/ electric motor) which will bring additional 60 hectare of land under irrigation benefitting 200 rural women's households. Similarly, women friendly agriculture machinery and tools will be introduced (six sets of propelled paddy/wheat harvester, 5 sets of weeding machines, 20 sets of corn threshers, 40 sets of corn/jap planter) to reduce the drudgery of women farmers. Women's groups/cooperatives will receive further strengthening to enable them to deliver a reliable supply chain to the HGSF programme. JP RWEE has been working with the government to develop the HGSF initiative in 56 community schools with the dual objectives of supporting the provision of balanced and nutritious school meals to approximately 10,000 students, and facilitating market linkages for 980 rural women. This supplementary activity will build the capacity of four agriculture cooperatives (80 participants) on profitable operation and management of agriculture collection/storage structures; provide trainings on market-oriented farming (agriculture as business), market linkages, business incubation and acceleration services to 120 women farmers; and exposure visits for 30 members of cooperatives and women farmers on HGSF modality. While the direct beneficiaries of the supplementary activity will be 230 women farmers participating in the JP RWEE, the consolidation of the HGSF modality in 56 schools will provide benefits to all 980 women farmers linked to HGSF.

Programme interventions under Outcome 2 will be implemented by FAO, UN Women and WFP.

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

The JP RWEE will continue to develop rural women's individual and collective leadership capacity through the soft skills development support package (please refer to the above section). Lessons learned from the past RWEE implementation indicates that more investment is required to develop the leadership competency and confidence within and among rural women farmers' groups, to access relevant local bodies, vocalise their issues and advocate for public support. The JP RWEE will support rural women farmers to improve their understanding on the new local governance system, relevant local laws, policies and available programmes and services, and develop their capacity to engage in new local decision-making processes. Formalization of rural women's groups through their registration in the municipality will continue during this programme period as it proved effective to allow rural women farmers to receive the public support services and financial schemes.

The JP RWEE will also continue to work with rural women farmers and their family members to bring about positive behaviour changes from the household level through IFAD's household methodologies. The Gender Action Learning System (GALS) is a specific household methodology, which has been applied for the JP RWEE in Nepal and aims at enabling rural women and their family members to work together to improve relations and decision-making. The expected result of this social process is to achieve more equitable workloads and to have an inclusive family vision to strengthen the overall well-being of the household and all its members. The household methodologies inspire new visions for livelihood development, builds creativity, internalizes participatory, listening and leadership skills of women and men, creates new cultural norms, forms new friendship and networks between women and men – all these are crucial in enhancing sustainability and long-term impact of the JP RWEE. Under Outcome 3, IFAD continues to conduct the GALS exercise among 460

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already successfully piloted in eight districts across five provinces by WFP in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology.

beneficiaries (GALS champions) and 920 family members in Sarlahi and Rahutahat areas, sharing remaining GALS tools and building a strong network of GALS practitioners that could themselves share the methodology through the peers' support process. These beneficiaries include the original 2018/2019 target of 250 women and 500 family members, inviting additional peer women who are members of the same women's groups and their family members - both benefitting from GALS through the peer-sharing process. The rationale behind working with the original batch of 250 beneficiaries and their additional 210 peer women, is to strengthen their understanding of GALS with remaining tools that had not been yet introduced during the last funding cycle. This is the first time that GALS was introduced in Nepal and it takes time to adapt the tools to the local context and for the learnings to sink in to generate gender transformative changes. Moreover, working with the same beneficiaries will strengthen their ability to become leaders, creating a critical mass at a community level.

The GALS has also been implemented under the IFAD-funded Rural Enterprises and Remittances Project (RERP)<sup>9</sup> in the same districts, and, therefore, GALS practitioners supported under the JP RWEE will be linked to the RERP so as to benefit from additional income-generating opportunities beyond the JP RWEE project cycle, promoting overall sustainability.

Programme interventions under Outcome 3 will be implemented by UN Women, FAO and IFAD.

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

In this funding period, the JP RWEE will have direct interventions that engage federal and local government representatives to ensure their continuous commitment and support for gender equality and rural women farmers' economic empowerment. A policy review of the GESI strategy of the ADS in the context of the federal governance structure and COVID-19 context will be conducted to inform evidence-based advocacy at the federal level. This will support the Government to revisit and adjust the GESI strategy to the new federal governance, COVID-19 or any other humanitarian crisis context, and develop plans at the federal level for the application of the GESI strategy to the implementation of the ADS with the three tiers of Governments (federal, provincial and local). The JP RWEE will hold a policy dialogue with federal level stakeholders to present the updated GESI strategy and solicit MoALD's political will to integrate the GESI strategy in the implementation of the ADS. The JP RWEE will closely engage elected representatives and officials of the local governments to promote gender responsive local planning and budgeting, especially for rural women farmers' economic empowerment and sustainable livelihoods development. District-level policy dialogues between rural women farmers and local government representatives will be organised to advocate for policy actions and mobilize available local resources to support their empowerment. The JP will also deliver sensitisation training on the GESI strategy for relevant local officials.

During this funding period, technical support (for example through trainings and provision of tools) to strengthen the technical and institutional capacity of relevant local government units (municipalities), the provincial government in Province 2 (Agriculture Knowledge Centers) and MoALD to conduct gender responsive monitoring and reporting of local agricultural development will be provided. The JP RWEE team will first review the existing monitoring mechanism in the three relevant tiers of the Government particularly related to agricultural development analyze its strengths and gaps and develop a plan for action for further strengthening. In the PSC meeting in September 2019, the Secretary of MoALD clearly highlighted the importance of reporting of gender responsive results in the agriculture sector as the Ministry has to report the results to the Prime Minister's Office for their performances evaluation. This support will further help MoALD to develop concrete reporting practices on gender responsive agriculture development going forward.

Programme interventions under Outcome 4 will be implemented by UN Women.

<sup>9</sup> The RERP is a seven years' project, funded by IFAD, with the Government of Nepal covering 16 districts. It aims to provide sustainable sources of income to poor households, migrant families and returnees, by supporting the creation and expansion of family, micro, small and medium rural enterprises in farming and off-farming sectors.

### Coordination of the joint implementation, knowledge management, monitoring and reporting

In the beginning of the 2020 work plan, the JP RWEE team will conduct an internal workshop to review respective programme designs of each agency from a gender perspective, reflecting on lessons learned from past implementation. This initiative will elevate coherence and consistency in the JP RWEE's joint efforts to optimize the gender responsive impact of the JP.

In addition, a national consultation workshop among the JP RWEE national stakeholders including participating agencies, federal Government, implementing partners/service providers and representatives of rural women farmer's group, will be held in the end of 2020 to analyze the overall lessons learnt of the JP RWEE. The lessons and achievements of the JP RWEE will support the national and global JP RWEE teams for the Phase II of the JP.

In order to strengthen knowledge management and understanding of qualitative changes that RWEE beneficiaries underwent, IFAD will conduct the endline survey for the JP RWEE using the Women Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI)—as foreseen in the 2018/2019 planning cycle--, as well as an in-depth assessment of GALS results. Results of the WEAI and GALS assessment will feed into the JP final evaluation to be conducted in 2020, by enriching the programme endline information and providing detailed information as to the dimensions of empowerment supported by programme interventions. The WEAI is an innovative, survey-based methodology measuring women's empowerment across different dimensions, comparing it to that of men: i) decisions about agricultural production, ii) access to and decision-making power over productive resources iii) control over use of income, iv) leadership in the community, and v) time use. The WEAI will generate the evidence base for the future policy engagement with government authorities, with the aim to ensure continuous commitment and support. It will assess progress made by the JP RWEE on rural women's empowerment, measuring achievements in different empowerment domains as compared to the baseline made available by USAID.<sup>10</sup> The GALS in-depth assessment will complement the quantitative results of the WEAI by providing qualitative information related to women (and men) pathways of change through GALS. Insofar as possible, the GALS assessment will try to answer the "why" question to empowerment results across WEAI dimensions.

UN Women will lead the overall programme coordination, knowledge management, joint field monitoring, reporting and final evaluation. IFAD will support the knowledge management and the final evaluation through its implementation of the GALS and WEAI endline survey.

More details of activities are provided in Annex 1 (workplan):

Activity Description	Location	Number of beneficiaries (women/men)	Activity cost in USD	Lead Agency
<b>Outcome 1: Improved food and nutrition security</b>				
1. Provision of summer and winter vegetable seed and nursery materials support to kitchen gardening group	Sarlahi and Rautahat	1,025 rural women farmers (375 new member added)	16,704	FAO
2. Provision of 15 on-the-spot trainings on safer vegetable production technologies based on IPM at nursery and production level		375 rural women farmers	4,000	FAO
3. Provision of two post-harvest handling training	Rautahat	60 rural women farmers	7,701	FAO
4. Provision of technical support to	Sarlahi	375 rural women	16,200	FAO

<sup>10</sup> USAID, Measuring Progress toward Empowerment – Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index: Baseline Report, 2014. Please refer to: <http://ebrary.ifpri.org/utils/getfile/collection/p15738coll2/id/128190/file/128401.pdf>



upgrade 15 kitchen garden groups to commercial vegetable production groups	and Rautahat	farmers		
5. Provision of technical and material support (seed and nursery materials) to 67 commercial vegetable producer groups (12 new added group)		1,608 rural women farmers	56,174	FAO
6. Establishment of 120 plastic tunnels with drip irrigation facilities with on-the-spot training on techniques for construction and management practices of vegetables as per critical growth stages in the controlled environment inside the tunnel		2,735 rural women farmers	21,243	FAO
7. Spot training on soil health/fertility management and soil moisture conservation		70 rural women farmers	4,000	FAO
8. Training on health hazards and handling of pesticides		1,000 rural women farmers	1,879	FAO
9. Introduction of high yielding varieties of cereal crops (rice, wheat and maize)		3,000 rural women farmers	30,762	FAO
10. Reorientation training to the newly formed group members		771 rural women farmers	1,435	FAO
11. Follow-up support to the existing group		93 old groups	1,000	FAO
12. Hand over to the local Government		122 groups and 3002 rural women farmers	400	FAO
<b>Outcome 2: Rural women have increased income to secure their livelihoods</b>				
13. Provision of two workshops on vegetable market promotion and linkages development	Sarlahi and Rautahat	70 rural women farmers (in commercial vegetable farming)	3,800	FAO
14. Exposure visit to vegetable market centers and relevant vendors at different market centers + seasonal and off season vegetable production technology in production sites		40+80 rural women farmers (in commercial vegetable farming)	4,700 +1,000	FAO
15. Plastic crate and weighing balance distribution		690 + 436 rural women farmers (in commercial vegetable farming)	8,846 +3,700	FAO
16. Installation of small and micro irrigation scheme (shallow tube well installation with pump set/ electric motor)		200+100 rural women farmers	20,560 +7,200	FAO
17. Women friendly agriculture machinery and tools distributions for drudgery reduction (six sets of propelled paddy/wheat harvester, five + seven sets of weeding machines, 20+15 sets of		700+550 rural women	27,523 +4,630	FAO

corn threshers, 40 sets of corn/jap planters)				
18. Provision of leadership and other soft skills development support (e.g. training, coaching and facilitation for coalition/network building) to support women's meaningful participation in value chains in the COVID-19 or any other humanitarian crisis context		3,000 rural women farmers	30,873	UN Women
19. Provision of financial literacy training to rural women farmers		96 rural women farmers (at least one member from each group)	20,000	UN Women
20. Provision of sensitization training to family, community and youth members against social norms and harmful practices also linking it with COVID-19 or any other humanitarian crisis context		1,000 members of families and communities (300 women and girls, 700 men and boys)	16,250	UN Women
21. Provision of sensitization/awareness raising training to selected local vendors on GESI linking it with COVID-19 or any other humanitarian crisis context		100 vendors	2,000	UN Women
22. Construction of two agri-products collection/storage facilities that enable rural women farmers to collect and store their agricultural products	Sarlahi and Rautahat	800 rural women farmers from approximately 40 rural women farmers' groups.  Estimated 200 other local farmers from surrounding communities who store their agri-products on rent	40,776	WFP
23. Pilot Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) in the GoN's cash-based National School Meals Programme (NSMP) implemented in 42 community schools in both districts with the technical support of WFP	Sarlahi and Rautahat	840 rural women farmers from various cooperatives/farmer groups (20 farmers/school) 168 government and school representatives/officials (25 women, 143 men) Approximately 6,300 students (3,213 female and 3,087 male): average 150 students/school	47,081 + 18,805	WFP

		Capacity of 230 rural women enhanced for managing the localized supply chain for implementation of HGSP		
24. Provision of short-term wage employment opportunities for rural women under Cash Assistance for Assets initiatives for construction of two agri-products collection/storage facilities	Sarlahi and Rautahat	300 rural women farmers	92,673	WFP
<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>				
25. Provision of leadership development support (Ref. Activity 15)	Sarlahi and Rautahat	3,000 rural women farmers	(Ref. Activity 15)	UN Women
26. Organization of district-level policy dialogues among rural women farmers and local governments (Ref. Activity 29)		100 rural women farmers through two events (one in each district)	(Ref. Activity 29)	UN Women
27. Formation of registration of three multipurpose cooperatives + registration of 29 newly formed group		300+771 rural women farmers	2,010 + 371	FAO
28. Provision of training on cooperative operation and management + on site training on group management and strengthening		30 +290 rural women farmers (10 women from each cooperative +290 representative women farmers from 29 newly formed groups )	4,270 +629	FAO
29. Provision of training on co-operatives account keeping +business plan preparation training		30 +30 rural women farmers	2,500 +3,000	FAO
30. Awareness raising/sensitization support (as part of soft skills development) to rural women farmers (Ref. Activity 15)		2,333 rural women farmers	(Ref. Activity 15)	UN Women
31. GALS methodology roll out, including: Consolidation and sharing of remaining tools with existing beneficiaries and new ones		610 rural women champions and 1,070 of their family and community members second level champions	115,873	IFAD
32. Participatory Gender Review to consolidate the results of GALS at community/district and programme level and orient stakeholders, such as municipality representatives on GALS methodology		610 rural women champions and 1,070 of their family and community members second level champions	20,000	IFAD

<b>Outcome 4: A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women</b>				
33. Organization of district-level policy dialogues among rural women farmers and local governments linking it with COVID-19 or any other humanitarian crisis context	Sarlahi and Rautahat	65 local officials (30 women, 35 men) and 40 rural women in two events (one in each district)	7,000	UN Women
34. Provision of awareness raising and sensitization training to relevant local government representatives and officials on issues of GESI in the context of women in agriculture		60 (30 women, 30 men) local government representatives and government officials at the local and provincial level	10,000	UN Women
35. Conduct a policy review of a GESI strategy of the ADS	Kathmandu	N/A	8,000	UN Women
36. Technical support (e.g. training tools etc.) to strengthen technical and institutional capacity of relevant local government units (municipalities), provincial government and the MoALD to conduct gender responsive monitoring and reporting of local agricultural development	Sarlahi and Rautahat	30 government officials and elected representatives of the local government units, provincial and federal governments.	50,000	UN Women
37. Conduct project endline survey through Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) to be included as part of the final evaluation (additional funds to 2018 budget) and conduct an in-depth assessment of GALS results that can complement the WEAI with qualitative findings	Sarlahi and Rautahat	N/A	16,250	IFAD
<b>Joint programme coordination, knowledge management, monitoring and evaluation</b>				
38. Conduct an internal review workshop	Kathmandu	N/A	N/A	UN Women
39. A national consultation workshop among JP RWEE national stakeholders	Kathmandu	50	5,000	UN Women
40. Conduct joint monitoring visits, coordination meetings, Programme Steering Committee meeting, the final joint evaluation (the proposed amount includes partial salary of the National Coordinator)	Sarlahi and Rautahat	N/A	40,714	UN Women
41. Production of knowledge products (e.g. videos, a compilation of human interest stories, best practices and success stories published in local languages)	N/A	N/A	20,000	UN Women
<b>4. Implementation approach</b>				

The JP RWEE team in Nepal will consider both federal and local level implementation and coordination mechanisms.

**Federal level:** The JP RWEE team will work closely with MoALD. The existing PSC is chaired by the Secretary of MoALD. The primary role of the PSC is to provide strategic guidance for the overall programme implementation. The PSC will be the federal level mechanism to ensure the monitoring of programme activities.

- **JP RWEE Working Group (WG):** The existing WG, consisting of focal persons from each of the four UN agencies, will continue holding regular meetings to discuss progress, challenges, mitigation measure and areas of improvement of the JP RWEE. As in previous years, a full-time Programme Officer, deployed by UN Women, will play the role of National Coordinator and continue to serve as an in-country focal point for the day-to-day coordination and operations of the programme among the four participating agencies. The National Coordinator will also function as the main communication link with the JP RWEE Global Coordinator and be in charge of information exchanges such as periodic reporting and inputs to global communication efforts. In addition, the Programme Specialist/Head of Economic Empowerment Unit of UN Women, will also provide management guidance and support for the quality assurance of the joint implementation.

**Local level:** Local programme coordination committees will serve as a platform for closer engagement with the local governments in the programme implementation and field monitoring, ensuring the smooth coordination and inter-linkages among similar interventions in the field and informing the federal-level PSC of any emerging issues. FAO-hired district-level technical officers (DTOs) will continue to support the overall field implementation, on-site monitoring and reporting of the JP RWEE components assigned to the local implementing partners and service providers. This will include data collection in the field on quarterly basis. DTOs will report the status of field progress to the National Coordinator on a monthly basis based on the information provided by the service provider recruited by partner agencies. They will also ensure that the programme components of all four participating agencies are well coordinated and integrated in the programme districts. DTOs have already been using the GALS and will receive during the 2018/19 cycle a dedicated training on how to act as a GALS supervisor.

Interagency cooperation helps to bring about synergies that capitalise on each UN entity's expertise to advance rural women's empowerment in agricultural value chains. The four UN agencies have robust links with relevant ministries and local authority representatives, who will act as critical partners to work jointly on programme implementation and field monitoring. The combined expertise, experiences and resources will help respond to the diversity of issues constraining rural women's economic empowerment. The combined coordination component of the programme forms its strongest comparative advantage, enabling to address multiple rural women's issues from food insecurity and livelihood to empowerment and policy advocacy.

The four UN agencies are "delivering as one" based on the following comparative advantages:

UN Women	The UN entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. UN Women has considerable experience in supporting rural women's economic empowerment in Nepal, where programme innovations have rendered concrete gains for women in especially the economic and political spheres. UN Women stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on technical assistance on women's leadership; negotiation skills; voice, agency and influence; enhancing women's economic empowerment; and making gender equality central to national
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	development planning and budgeting. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality.
FAO	Gender equality and rural women's empowerment are central to FAO's mandate to achieve food security for all. FAO works with governments and other partners to raise levels of nutrition, better the lives of rural populations, and improve agricultural productivity while contributing to the growth of the world economy. With FAO's support to national governments, several countries have adopted national food and agricultural policies and action plans that fully integrate women's and men's needs. FAO works with national statistical offices in the collection, analysis and use of gender disaggregated data to give more visibility to rural women's economic and agricultural contributions.
WFP	WFP puts women at the centre of its efforts to fight hunger and malnutrition emphasising the importance of nutrition in the critical, first 1,000 days of life from the moment of conception. WFP works with local communities, to tackle underlying factors causing hunger, build resilience and improve food security. WFP has been working in Nepal since 1963 and has extensive expertise in delivering large-scale projects on food security, social protection, rural and agricultural development, Climate Change Adaptation and disaster risk management in severely food insecure and hard-to-reach remote mountainous areas. WFP's cash for assets work and NSMP will enable addressing rural women's issues from food insecurity and livelihood.
IFAD	Gender equality and women's empowerment have been at the core of IFAD's efforts to reduce rural poverty and improve food and nutrition security since its founding in 1978. Through its loans and grants portfolio, IFAD works with smallholder farmers, many of whom are women. Results reported in 2011 showed that 19 million poor rural women participated in IFAD-supported programmes and projects. Women made up 60 per cent of all people trained in business and entrepreneurship, and in community management topics, and accounted for more than 50 per cent of users of rural financial services. IFAD's loan programmes regularly works on a bi-lateral basis with initiatives of the other agencies, such as FAO's Farmer Field Schools, WFP's Purchase for Progress and Cash for Asset programmes, and UN Women's leadership and capacity-building efforts. IFAD's experience on GALS and WEAI will help support and monitor qualitative changes in rural women's lives, leveraging their economic capacity. Close linkages with local government are also ensured by the links with the IFAD-funded project "Rural Enterprises and remittances project", which will be scaling up GALS in the regions.

## 5. Justification for the intervention

The proposed activities aim to ensure sustainability of rural women farmers' economic empowerment in two ways: the first is improved livelihoods through increased access to the local markets and inclusion in value chains; and the second is political commitment of the governments at all levels to GESI, contributing to an enabling environment for rural women farmers. Based on the quantitative and qualitative gains in rural women's technical, economic and leadership capacities to date, the JP RWEE will focus on the value chain development and rural women farmer groups' sustainable access to local markets in this new funding round (October 2019-June 2020).

Commercialization and formalization of agriculture production will play a key role in increasing income generation and economic opportunities for rural women farmers in the long term given the current COVID crisis or any other humanitarian crisis. The JP RWEE has applied a market-driven approach to help smallholder producers sustainably increase their income and improve their livelihood (food security and nutrition). It is difficult for smallholder women farmers to move beyond low value-added agriculture into value chains and access markets. Challenges that they face include small-scale production, low bargaining power, limited access to the local markets and marketing facilities (e.g. selling outlets and collection centres), and less opportunity to access financial services. The HGSF initiative will provide rural women farmers an entry point to the local markets and a predictable local outlet for their products, leading to a stable income, more investments and higher productivity. Upscaling of commercial vegetable production, formation of cooperatives, and interaction workshops on vegetable market promotion and a exposure visit to vegetable market centres will enhance rural women farmers' ability to market their produce to wholesalers and retailers, an essential skill for vegetable commercialisation. In order to ensure the stable supply of fresh vegetables in the sufficient volume, the JP RWEE ensures the provision of technical assistance, materials, tools and equipment, and collection/storage facilities to support the production of commercial vegetable crop by RWEE women farmers, reduce post-harvest losses and ensure a stable supply of vegetables to the market.

Market linkages help to facilitate entry to value chains, but building rural women farmers' leadership capacity and other soft skills is essential to enhance their confidence and ability to meaningfully participate in the value chains and reap the benefits. For this purpose, various technical and mobilization support has been proposed to strengthen RWEE women's awareness, self-confidence, leadership, voice and agency. The JP RWEE introduces financial literacy training, after having observed the poor financial decision-making of the JP RWEE beneficiaries – they had little to no savings. In addition to providing economic benefits, it can bring some significant social benefits including negotiating power. Rural women are also struggling to access financial resources at the local level in the current local governance structure. The JP RWEE's support in building the individual and collective leadership capacities of rural women farmers also amplifies their voices to local decision-makers. Their collective leadership capacity will support in building collective voices, strengthening networking, sharing their learning with other women in their communities to ensure their collective advocacy for the empowerment of rural women on the ground.

Despite rural women farmers' increased capacity and income generation, prevailing discriminatory social norms and cultural practices still hinder their full empowerment and full participation. Sensitization training will help to tackle these norms by influencing attitudes and beliefs at the household, community and local level. The JP RWEE will help to mobilise family members, community leaders, youth networks and vendors to encourage rural women's economic participation and represent rural women farmers interests in the market. Through the use of the GALS, the JP RWEE will keep working with rural women farmers and their family members to bring about positive gender transformative behavioural changes such as women's active engagement in decision-making and the re-negotiation of care work at the household level. This innovative household-based approach deepens the impact and scale of women's empowerment, acting as a development accelerator of interventions supported by other participating agencies. In this funding cycle, all tools will be shared, properly utilised, and linked to opportunities provided by the project.

A policy review of the GESI strategy of ADS is important to ensure government's understanding in the context of the federal governance structure and to help turn political will and commitments into action. The policy dialogues at local level together with targeted sensitisation training will build the capacity of elected representatives and local officials to develop, implement and monitor more gender responsive policies for rural women farmers' economic empowerment and leadership.

The JP will also further strengthen rural women farmers' technical capacity to transfer their knowledge and skills to other women in their communities beyond the framework of the JP. It will support women farmer groups in scaling up the adoption of improved agronomic practices with demonstration plots and basic inputs

such as seeds and technical advice. The demonstration plot will serve as a site for on-spot field level training, where members of the farmer group can observe the critical stages of vegetable cultivation and performance of recommended technologies. Farmers will be able to interact with fellow farmers and share learning on more efficient micro-irrigation systems for example, which will enhance yield, cash income and household nutrition.

## 6. Sustainability

While support will be provided to an additional 667 rural women farmers in 2020, the JP RWEE will also continue its support to the same 2,333 beneficiaries in Sarlahi and Rautahat districts to ensure the sustainability of results achieved in 2016, 2017 and 2018 in these districts. It will ensure sustainability at the three levels:

### Individual

The proposed activities will scale up and deepen the results to accelerate local agriculture development and rural women farmers' economic empowerment. The JP aims to ensure the sustainable income generation with rural women farmers by strengthening their market linkages, providing basic tools, equipment, facilities and materials for commercial vegetable farming, and building their technical, entrepreneurial and leadership capacities. The idea is to "graduate" JP RWEE beneficiaries that have been supported on horticulture production, leadership and better livelihoods planning with GALS, supporting them to sell their production surplus. Construction of marketing (selling) outlets and collection/storage facilities will ensure that rural women farmers can meet the local demand with a stable and timely supply of commodities in the required quantities. This will support rural women farmers are also able to safely handle and carry vegetables to the destination market. The local government has provided land for the marketing outlet which rural women farmers' cooperatives will manage. The HGSF scheme will facilitate rural women farmers' access to the local markets, by using the government-led school meals programme as an entry point. The HGSF scheme is expected to provide an opportunity to RWEE women farmers' groups to supply local agricultural products to schools for 200 school days a year, in addition to the regular supply to the other local markets. If this scheme is tested feasible in the selected schools, the HGSF approach can be replicated in other municipalities of the JP districts, as National School Meals Programme universally covers the two districts. This will benefit many more smallholder farmers, including rural women, and school aged children in future. In addition, the JP RWEE will seek the possible linkage between RWEE women farmers and the IFAD-led RERP which is supporting the development of pro-poor value chains in 16 districts, including Sarlahi and Rautahat, since 2017. The linkage to the RERP will provide RWEE women farmers with a concrete entry point to agricultural value chains and appropriate local markets. Further, Financial Education and Enterprise Knowledge (FEEK) implemented by RERP will enhance the knowledge and skill of financial management and enhanced access to rural finance through financial institutions will facilitate to sustain the commercial production of high value horticulture and cereal crops. The programme will elaborate a strategy on the concrete steps of this graduation process towards RERP opportunities and how to coordinate between the two programmes.

### Collective and Community

A combination of commercialization and formalization of rural women's agriculture productions, their enhanced individual and collective leadership capacities and participation in formal value chains, and greater collaboration with the local government bodies will empower rural women farmers' groups to access public support services and financial schemes, which will support sustainability of their activities. For this purpose, the JP RWEE will further extend its support to formalize women farmers' groups by registering and upgrading them into formally registered cooperatives. GALS tools will further facilitate to analyse the value chains in group and cooperative level and plan for their production and marketing plans.

Sustainable transformation of social norms takes time and requires continued investment. The JP RWEE interventions help to secure rural women farmers' meaningful participation in value chains by supporting their voice and agency and promoting greater awareness on gender equality amongst men and women. The RERP

intends to continue working with GALS beneficiaries supported under the JP RWEE even after the completion of the JP, and extend to other districts, based on lessons learned from the implementation. WEAI results will enable cross-country comparisons across JP RWEE countries, contributing to the programme's global dimension.

### **Institutional**

The GoN's commitment to JP RWEE is strong, as evidenced by the ownership of the programme through regular PSC meetings at the federal level and involvement of local government bodies during the implementation of activities in the field. Agriculture and nutrition are high on the development agenda of the GoN, with increased budgetary allocations toward this sector. JP RWEE is fully aligned with the GoN's ADS, and its operational modality. The approach adopted will align the JP activities with the existing programmes/interventions of the government system by embedding a delivery mechanism in the local systems and designing interventions to be self-sustaining. A policy review of a GESI strategy of the ADS in the context of the federal governance structure will support the federal Government to develop plans for the implementation of the GESI strategy at the three tiers of Governments (federal, provincial and local) with an identification of robust coordination mechanism at all three levels. The JP RWEE has been implemented in close coordination and collaboration with local stakeholders (including municipalities, AKCs and the Prime Minister's Agriculture Modernization Programme); and these stakeholders have been involved in the field monitoring and supervision during the implementation stage. A total of 98 groups (2,333 members) are now registered at AKCs (then District Agriculture Development Office) and in respective municipalities, which allows them to access the government's support such as irrigation schemes, seeds, subsidized agriculture tools, training and extension services even after the completion of the JP RWEE. The availability of accessible financial resource through a group revolving fund scheme (NPR 3.8 million/USD 34,012 in total with 93 RWEE women farmers' groups engaging 2,263 members by 2018) will also encourage rural women farmers to continue their agriculture and economic activities. The remaining groups have been using different group funding schemes created by other external organizations in the districts. This will be further strengthened linking with IFAD funded RERP and FEEK projects providing further access to rural finances. The JP RWEE's capacity development support to the governments at the federal and local levels will also help to secure political commitments toward gender responsive agricultural development and policy action.

The JP RWEE team has increased its in-country resource mobilization efforts, having submitted two proposals for additional funding. The first to the Humanitarian Trust Fund, Government of Japan in 2018, which was unsuccessful. The second to the Government of Finland in May 2019, at the request of the UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC) in Nepal, who acknowledges this programme as one of the best examples of inter-agency cooperation/"Delivering as One". The result is yet to be announced. UN Women and WFP have also started discussions to replicate similar programme interventions through other funding sources in Province 7 in the far-west region of Nepal. In the future, the JP RWEE team will hold a round table meeting as well as bilateral meetings with relevant development partners and share the key learnings with human interest stories of the rural women farmers under the JP RWEE. The round table meeting will be organized under the leadership of MoALD.

## **7. Monitoring & Evaluation**

As practised in previous years, the JP RWEE team will monitor the results against relevant indicators as set in the global programme document and country Performance Monitoring Framework (PMF) by setting annual milestones and reporting results on a bi-annual basis. The DTOs, recruited by FAO, will directly coordinate with the National Coordinator on data collection, analysis and reporting in the field. A simple field monitoring form will be developed with the support of Monitoring and Evaluation Officers of each agency, for DTOs to help the field data and information collection and track the progress on a quarterly basis. The track record of the implementation of IFAD's household methodologies with rural women farmers and their households can be utilized to monitor, collect and record evidence of qualitative changes in rural women's livelihoods

development and their leadership capacities, and household level positive changes. Tracking and documentation of qualitative changes in women's lives will also be carried out by service providers and local partners of other JP components, combining it with their periodic monitoring of field activities. A compilation of qualitative stories will also support the JP to demonstrate qualitative results of the programme.

At least two joint monitoring visits along with the federal government representatives will be organized during 2019/2020 by participating agencies in the target districts. The local programme coordination committees will serve as platform to maintain the closer engagement of the local governments in the programme implementation and field monitoring. The allocation of budget for the monitoring and evaluation in this work plan, will support the JP to maintain robust monitoring mechanism and conduct an independent final evaluation in 2020.

Lessons learned from the field and evidence of positive changes (quantitative and qualitative) will be shared with the PSC and local programme coordination committees to help inform their strategic guidance over the JP implementation. PSC/local programme coordination meetings will be held twice a year. Quantitative data will be updated bi-annually on the PMF and qualitative information will be documented and disseminated through stories of change in annual reports and knowledge products such as a video and coffee table book. A video and coffee table book will target potential and existing donors of JP RWEE and the federal level government, stakeholder and development partners in the country. Selected stories and best practices will be translated into local languages (Bhojpuri and Bajika) in the two districts with high quality photos with minimal texts. Many households in rural areas do not own television and therefore, printed communication materials are found to be more effective to encourage women in their future endeavour. These translated version of stories will also be distributed to local elected leaders which will support them to think about the importance of agriculture led women's economic empowerment programme in their respective municipalities while preparing plans and budgets. The ambition of such communication materials is also to document the invisible changes (values, beliefs, attitudes) in social norms and exclusionary practices that maintain and reproduce discrimination in the lived realities of rural women farmers. Respective UN agencies will also utilize the data, information and other materials to develop communication materials to be utilized in their respective corporate communication channels for visibility and knowledge sharing.

## 8. Budget



PROGRAMME BUDGET					
CATEGORY	FAO	IFAD	WFP	UN WOMEN	TOTAL
1. Staff and Other Personnel Cost (Max. 10%)	30,000 +3,500	15,000	17,316 +1,000	26,714	89,030 + 3,500+1,000
2. Supplies, Commodities, Materials	130,000 +18,365	0	47,081	1,000	178,081+ 18,365
3. Equipment, Vehicles and Furniture including Depreciation	0	0	0	0	0
4. Contractual Services	55,872	155,873	40,776 +15,000	150,088	402,609 +15,000
5. Travel	9,000	12,000	4,330 +681	3,000	28,330 +681
6. Transfers and Grants Counterparts	0	0	92,673	0	92,673
7. General Operating and Other Direct Costs	8,000 +1,500	0	26,071 +2,124	17,395	51,466 +1,500+2,124
Total Programme Costs	232,872 +23,365	182,873	228,247 +18,805	198,197	842,189+ 23,365+18,805
8. Indirect Support Costs (Max 7%)	16,301 + 1,635 (7%)	12,801	14,836 +1,222 (6.5%)	13,873	57,811+ 1,635 + 1,222
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>249,173 +25,000</b>	<b>195,674</b>	<b>243,083 +20,000</b>	<b>212,070</b>	<b>900,000+ 25,000+20,000</b>

## 9. Names and signatures of participating UN organizations

\_\_\_\_\_  
(On behalf of FAO)

Name: Ayshanie Labe  
Title: Resident Representative (UNDP)  
FAO Representative a.i.  
Date: 15 March 2021

\_\_\_\_\_  
(On behalf of IFAD)

Name: ~~Tarek Koth~~ Roshan Cooke  
Title: County Director  
Date: 23 March 2021

\_\_\_\_\_  
(On behalf of WFP)

Name: Jane Pearce  
Title: Country Director a.i.  
Date: 18 Mar 2021

16 March 2021  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(On behalf of UN Women)

Name: Gitanjali Singh  
Title: Deputy Representative, Officer-in-Charge  
Date: 15 March 2021



## ANNEX I: Workplan

Please fill the below workplan with activities linked to the specific Outputs:

Activity description	Related indicator	Number of beneficiaries (women/men)	Timeframe	Place of implementation	Lead Agency	Activity cost
Outcome 1 Rural women have Improved food and nutrition security						
1.1 % of increase in agriculture production of women farmers		3,000 rural women farmers and 12,900 family members ( 6,431 women, 6,469 men)	January - December 2020	Sarlahi and Rautahat	FAO	N/A
1.2 Increase in rural women’s dietary diversity or variety of households food consumption patterns		3,000 rural women farmers and their family members ( 6,431 women, 6,469 men)			FAO	N/A
Output 1.1 Rural women have increased access to and control over resources, assets and services critical for their food and nutrition security						
1.1.1 Provision of summer and winter vegetable seed and nursery materials support to kitchen gardening group	1.1.1 Number of rural women farmers who have access to integrated agriculture/nutrition services	1,025 rural women farmers (375 new members added)	January - September 2020	Sarlahi and Rautahat	FAO	16,704
1.1.2 Provision of 15 on-the-spot trainings on safer vegetable production technology based on IPM at nursery and production level		375 rural women farmers	January-June 2020		FAO	4,000
1.1.3 Provision of two post-harvest handling training	1.1.2 Number of rural women farmers who utilize improved agriculture production techniques	60 rural women farmers in Rautahat	March-May 2020	Rautahat	FAO	7,701
1.1.4 Provision of technical support to upgrade 15 kitchen garden groups to commercial vegetable production groups	1.1.3 Number of rural women accessing community assets and agriculture infrastructures	375 rural women farmers	January - September 2020	Sarlahi and Rautahat	FAO	16,200
1.1.5 Provision of technical and material support (seed and nursery materials) to 67 commercial vegetable producer groups (12 new added group)		1,608 rural women farmers	January -May 2020		FAO	56,174
1.1.6 Establishment of 120 plastic tunnels with drip irrigation facilities with on-the-spot training on techniques for construction and management practices of		2, 735 rural women farmers	January - November 2020		FAO	21,243

Activity description	Related indicator	Number of beneficiaries (women/men)	Timeframe	Place of implementation	Lead Agency	Activity cost
vegetables as per critical growth stages in the controlled environment inside the tunnel						
1.1.7 Spot training on soil health/fertility management and soil moisture conservation		70 rural women farmers	January - October 2020		FAO	4,000
1.1.8 Training on health hazards and pesticides handling		1,000 rural women farmers	February – September 2020	FAO	1,879	
1.1.9 Introduction of high yielding varieties of cereal crops (rice, wheat and maize).		3,000 rural women farmers	January - October 2020	FAO	30,762	
1.1.10 Reorientation training to the newly formed group members	Number of women farmers oriented on commercial vegetable cultivation practices,	29 groups (771 rural women farmer )	April-June 2021	Sarlahi and Rautahat	FAO	1,435
1.1.11 Follow-up support to the existing groups		93 old groups (2,331 rural women farmer)	April-7 June 2021	Sarlahi and Rautahat	FAO	1,000
1.1.12 Handover to the local government		Project activity related documents/information( 122 groups and 3,002 rural women farmers)	June-September 2021	Sarlahi and Rautahat	FAO	400
Output 1.2 Rural women have greater capacity to enhance and control local food security reserves and their production						
No activities are proposed by the JP RWEE in Nepal under Output 1.2.						

Activity description	Related indicator	Number of beneficiaries (women/men)	Timeframe	Place of implementation	Lead Agency	Activity cost
Outcome 2 Rural women have increased income to secure their livelihoods						
2.1 Increase of rural women’s/women groups’/cooperatives’ income generated from their sales markets and other sources		3,000 rural women farmers	January-December 2020	Sarlahi and Rautahat	FAO	N/A
2.2 Proportion of rural women farmers with empowerment in the income domain of the WEAI (Increased control over income) – to be assessed part of the endline survey/Final Evaluation		N/A (The data can be drawn from a sample population among the JP participants)	October-December 2020		IFAD	N/A
Output 2.1 Rural women have enhanced entrepreneurship skills and value chains to access markets for their products						
2.1.1 Provision of two workshop on vegetable market promotion and linkages development	2.1.1 Number of rural women farmers trained on entrepreneurial, vocational and leadership skills to have increased access to markets	70 rural women farmers (in commercial vegetable farming)	February-March 2020	Sarlahi and Rautahat	FAO	3,800
2.1.2 Exposure visit to vegetable market centers and relevant vendors at different market centers		40 rural women farmers (in commercial vegetable farming)	March 2020		FAO	4,700
2.1.3 Plastic crate and weighing balance distribution	2.1.2 Number of rural women farmers increased their access to markets (Additional indicator)	690 rural women farmers (in commercial vegetable farming)	January- May 2020		FAO	8,846
2.1.4 Installation of small and micro irrigation scheme (Shallow tube well installation with pump set/electric motor)		200 rural women farmers	March-June 2020		FAO	20,560
2.1.5 Women friendly Agriculture Machinery and tools distribution for drudgery reduction (Propelled Paddy/wheat harvester 6 sets, Weeding machine 5 set, corn thresher 20 sets, Corn/Jap planter 40 set)	2.1.3 20 number of shallow tube well installed, 60 hectare land irrigated, 200 house hold number benefited	700 rural women farmers	March-June 2020		FAO	27,523
2.1.6 Provision of leadership and other soft skills development support (e.g. training, coaching and facilitation for coalition/network building) to support		3,000 rural women farmers	August 2020-February 2021		UN Women	30,873
	2.1.4 71 set of agriculture machinery and tools of 4 types distributed to women framer groups, 700 house hold number benefited					



Activity description	Related indicator	Number of beneficiaries (women/men)	Timeframe	Place of implementation	Lead Agency	Activity cost
women's meaningful participation in value chains						
2.1.7 Provision of financial literacy training to rural women farmers		96 rural women farmers (at least one member from each group)	August 2020-February 2021		UN Women	20,000
2.1.8 Provision of sensitization training to family, community and youth members against social norms and harmful practices		1,000 members of families and communities (300 women and girls, 700 men and boys)	September 2020-March 2021		UN Women	16,250
2.1.9 Provision of sensitization/awareness raising training to selected local vendors on GESI		100 vendors	September 2020-May 2021		UN Women	2,000
2.1.10 Construction of two agri-products collection/storage facilities that enable rural women farmers to collect and store their agricultural products		800 rural women farmers from approximately 40 rural women's groups . Estimated 200 other local farmers from surrounding communities who store their agri products on rent	August 2020-March 2021	Sarlahi and Rautahat	WFP	40,776
2.1.11 Pilot Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) in the GoN's cash-based National School Meals Programme (NSMP) implemented in 42 community schools in both districts with the technical support of WFP		840 rural women farmers from various cooperatives/farmer groups (20 farmers/school)  168 government and school representatives/officials (25 women, 143 men)  Approximately 6,300 students (3,213 female	August 2020-June 2021	Sarlahi and Rautahat	WFP	47,081 + 18,805

Activity description	Related indicator	Number of beneficiaries (women/men)	Timeframe	Place of implementation	Lead Agency	Activity cost
		and 3,087 male): average 150 students/school  Capacity of 230 rural women enhanced for managing the localized supply chain for implementation of HGSP				
2.1.12 Organization of inter-district visit for newly formed group members.	Representatives of newly formed group member observe/learn the off season vegetable production technology and commercial farming practices	80 rural women farmers	April 2021	Sarlahi and Rautahat	FAO	1,000
2.1.13 Support to minimize the post-harvest loss and improve the quality while transporting the vegetable product through plastic crate and weighing balance distribution	Awareness on post-harvest loss and improve the quality of vegetable product created by introducing the plastic crate to the newly formed groups	436 rural women farmers	April-May 2021	Sarlahi and Rautahat	FAO	3,700
2.1.14 Installation of small and micro irrigation scheme)	2.1.14 Shallow tube well (10) installed, (with pump set/electric motor	30 hectare of land comes under irrigation by benefiting 100 rural women farmers	June-Sept 2021	Sarlahi and Rautahat	FAO	7,200
2.1.15 Women friendly Agriculture Machinery and tools will be made available to the newly formed groups for reducing the drudgery.	2.1.15 - 22 set of agriculture machinery (wedding-7 set and corn thresher 15 set of tools distributed to women framer groups,	550 households benefited from drudgery reduction scheme	April-Sept 2021	Sarlahi and Rautahat	FAO	4,630
<b>Output 2.2 Rural women have increased access to decent wage employment opportunities</b>						

Activity description	Related indicator	Number of beneficiaries (women/men)	Timeframe	Place of implementation	Lead Agency	Activity cost
2.2.1 Provision of short-terms wage employment opportunities for rural women under Cash Assistance for Assets initiatives for construction of two agri-products collection/storage facilities	2.2.1 Number of rural women farmers with wage employment opportunities with the support of the JP RWEE	300 rural women farmers	August 2020-March 2021	Sarlahi and Rautahat	WFP	92,673
Outcome 3 Rural women have enhanced leadership and participation in their communities and in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programmes						
3.1 % of rural women elected as representative at local-level/community-level committees		N/A	September 2020-May 2021	Sarlahi and Rautahat	UN Women	N/A
3.2 % of producers organizations led by women		N/A			UN Women	N/A
3.3 Proportion of rural women farmers with empowerment in the leadership domain of the WEAI (Increased decision-making) – to be assessed part of the endline survey/Final Evaluation		N/A			IFAD	N/A
Output 3.1 Rural women, including young women have enhanced confidence and leadership skills to participate in local governance						
3.1.1 Provision of leadership development support (Please refer to Activity 2.1.6 under Output 2.1)	3.1.1 Number of rural women farmers who participated in the local policy discussions and/or formal decision-making processes	3,000 rural women farmers	N/A	Sarlahi and Rautahat	UN Women	N/A (Ref. to Activity 2.1.4)
3.1.2 Organization of district-level policy dialogues among rural women farmers and local governments (Please refer to Activity 4.1.1 under Output 4.1)		100 rural women farmers through two events (one in each district)	TBC		UN Women	N/A (Ref. to Activity 4.1.1)
Output 3.2 Rural women have greater organizational capacities to form, sustain and participate into POs, cooperatives and unions						
3.2.1 Formation of registration of three multipurpose cooperatives	3.1.1 Number of rural women who join formally registered cooperatives or registered themselves in relevant local government offices	300 rural women farmers	March 2020	Sarlahi and Rautahat	FAO	2,010
3.2.2 Provision of training on cooperative operation and management		30 rural women farmers (10 women from each cooperative)	February 2020		FAO	4,270
3.2.3 Provision of cooperative’s account keeping training			30 rural women farmers (12 from two old cooperatives and 18 from new cooperatives)	May 2020	Saralahi and Rautahat	FAO

Activity description	Related indicator	Number of beneficiaries (women/men)	Timeframe	Place of implementation	Lead Agency	Activity cost
3.2.4 Registration of 29 women farmers groups to Municipality/Rural municipality	3.2.4 Number of rural women groups registered in local government offices	29 women farmer groups	April-May 2021	Sarlahi and Rautahat	FAO	371
3.2.5 Spot training on group management and strengthening	3.2.5 Number of group sustained	10 events of trainings, 290 representative rural women farmer of 29 groups participated	April-7 June 2021	Sarlahi and Rautahat	FAO	629
3.2.6 Business plan preparation training to the responsible member of cooperatives	3.2.6 Number of rural women groups who join formally in the registered cooperatives	30 rural women farmers (6 from each cooperatives)	May 2021	Sarlahi and Rautahat	FAO	3,000
<b>Output 3.3 Rural women, including young women, have increased capacity to engage in and influence relevant policy forums at national and regional levels</b>						
No activities are proposed by the JP RWEE in Nepal under Output 3.3. However, selected rural women farmers can be invited or engaged in a national level public hearing event which will be organized in the second half of 2018 through UN Women's advocacy campaign on women's economic empowerment and leadership.						
<b>Output 3.4 Rural women, including young women have enhanced awareness on their rights in a more supportive community/local environment</b>						
3.4.1 Provision of awareness raising/sensitization support (as part of soft skills development) to rural women farmers <b>(Please refer to Activity 2.1.6 under Output 2.1)</b>	3.4.1 Number of rural women are aware of women's human rights and GESI responsive approaches	3,000 rural women farmers	August 2020-February 2021	Sarlahi and Rautahat	UN Women	N/A (Ref. to Activity 2.1.6)
3.4.2 GALS methodology roll out, including: Consolidation and sharing of remaining tools with existing beneficiaries and new ones	3.4.2 Number of families/households mobilized and increased their awareness and support to rural women's economic empowerment	610 rural women champions and 1,070 of their family and community members second level champions	January 2020-December 2021	Sarlahi and Rautahat	IFAD	115,873
3.4.3 Participatory Gender Review to consolidate the results of GALS at community/district and programme level and orient stakeholders, such as municipality representatives on GALS		610 rural women champions and 1,070 of their family and community members second level champions	January 2020 - December 2021	Sarlahi and Rautahat	IFAD	20,000

Activity description	Related indicator	Number of beneficiaries (women/men)	Timeframe	Place of implementation	Lead Agency	Activity cost
methodology						
Outcome 4 A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women						
4.1 % of government budgets and development projects/funding allocated to programmes benefitting rural women		N/A	August 2020-February 2021	Sarlahi and Rautahat	UN Women	N/A
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						
4.1.1 Organization of district-level policy dialogues among rural women farmers and local governments	4.1.1 Number of local government representatives/officials who enhanced their knowledge and capacity to mainstream, monitor and report issues of rural women farmers	65 local officials (30 women and 35 men) in two events (one in each district)	September 2020-May 2021	Sarlahi and Rautaht	UN Women	7,000
4.1.2 Provision of awareness raising and sensitization training to relevant local government representatives and officials on issues of GESI in the context of women in agriculture		60 (30 women, 30 men) local government representatives and government officials at the local and provincial level	September 2020-May 2021		UN Women	10,000
4.1.3 Conduct a policy review of a GESI strategy of the ADS		N/A	October 2020-June 2021	Kathmandu	UN Women	8,000
4.1.4 Provision of capacity development support (training) to relevant local government units (municipalities), provincial government and the MoALD to conduct gender responsive monitoring and reporting of local agricultural development		30 government officials and elected representatives of the local government units, provincial and federal governments.	October 2020-June 2021	Sarlahi and Rautahat	UN Women	50,000
Output 4.2 Greater availability of tools and data to track progress in the economic empowerment of rural women						



Activity description	Related indicator	Number of beneficiaries (women/men)	Timeframe	Place of implementation	Lead Agency	Activity cost
4.2.1 Conduct project endline survey, by applying the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) and an in-depth assessment of GALS results (to supplement the joint evaluation)	4.2.1 Number of countries where the "women's empowerment agriculture index" is piloted	N/A	October-December 2020	Sarlahi and Rautahat	IFAD	16,250
<b>Output 4.3 An enabling environment is promoted to reflect rural women's priorities in regional policy processes</b>						
No activities are proposed by the JP RWEE in Nepal under Output 4.3.						
<b>Joint programme coordination, knowledge management, reporting, monitoring and evaluation</b>						
An internal review workshop	N/A	N/A	August 2020	Kathmandu	UN Women	N/A
A national consultation workshop among JP RWEE national stakeholders	N/A	N/A	May 2020	Kathmandu	UN Women	5,000
Conduct joint monitoring visits, coordination meetings, Programme Steering Committee meeting and the final joint evaluation (the proposed amount includes the partial salary of National Coordinator)	N/A	N/A	October 2020-June 2021	Sarlahi and Rautahat	UN Women	40,714
Production of knowledge products (e.g. videos, a compilation of human interest stories, best practices and success stories published in local languages)	N/A	N/A	August 2020-April 2021	Sarlahi and Rautahat	UN Women	20,000
<b>Sub-total: Activity costs</b>						
						USD 775,362
<b>Sub-total: Direct general programme management and operating costs</b>						
						USD 66,827
<b>Total programme costs (Activity costs + direct general programme management and operating costs)</b>						
						USD 842,189
						FAO USD 23,365
						WFP USD: 18,805

Activity description	Related indicator	Number of beneficiaries (women/men)	Timeframe	Place of implementation	Lead Agency	Activity cost
<b>Total indirect support costs (max. 7%)</b>						
						USD 57,811
						FAO USD 1,635
						WFP USD: 1,222
<b>Grand total</b>						
						USD 900,000
						FAO: +25,000
						WFP: +20,000

Note: The percentage of the indirect support costs of FAO, IFAD and UN Women is 7 % and that of WFP is 6.5 %.