An Integrated Approach for the Empowerment of Rural Women

WTO 2018-2019 Aid-for-Trade Work Programme, 5 November 2018
Introduction

The UN Joint Programme on “Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Women (JPRWEE)”

• developed in 2012 to respond to the multiple challenges that rural women face
• focus on 4 main outcomes:

1) improved food and nutrition security
2) increased income to sustain livelihoods
3) enhanced participation in community decision making
4) more gender-responsive policy environments
Building on respective strengths

The coalition between FAO, IFAD, WFP and UN Women capitalizes on each agency’s comparative advantage:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>FAO</strong></th>
<th>policy assistance on agriculture and food security</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>IFAD</strong></td>
<td>presence in rural areas and innovative tools to measure women’s empowerment</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WFP</strong></td>
<td>food assistance innovations</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>UN Women</strong></td>
<td>global mandate on gender equality</td>
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</table>
Where is the programme implemented?

7 countries selected based on:

- substantial rural gender inequalities
- demand from the country and political will
- strong presence of the 4 participating agencies
- priority countries for major donors in agriculture

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Lead Agency</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>IFAD + UN Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>WFP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td>UN Women</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liberia</td>
<td>UN Women</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>UN Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niger</td>
<td>FAO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rwanda</td>
<td>WFP</td>
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</tbody>
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SINCE 2014:

- **51,180 people** (40,227 women/10,953 men) and over 261,000 household members directly reached
- **206,200** indirect beneficiaries
- Substantial contribution to **SDGs 1, 2, 5 and 17**
A sequenced package of interventions to support women’s economic and social empowerment:

- **capacity development and access to productive resources** 69.5% average increase in agricultural production and a more diversified diet
- **access to markets** up to 25% increase in the income of participating women; increase in number of women-led businesses
- **access to finance** in all countries, women are receiving financial services and loans with repayment rate up to 83%
In Kyrgyzstan, 20 representatives of rural women were elected in local councils.
Creating an enabling environment

- **At policy level:** in Guatemala, Ethiopia and Nepal, the JP supported to develop and implement gender policies in the agricultural sector.

- **At the household and community level:** using gender transformative approaches to change socio-cultural norms and gender relations.
  - household methodologies, community conversations, FAO Dimitra Clubs, awareness raising campaigns.
Understanding how the UNJP RWEE is empowering women in Oromia regional state of Ethiopia

I am a woman who can explain her ideas clearly. I am not educated but I am knowledgeable. I have a good position in the community, because of my knowledge. An empowered woman is one who has a good behaviour, uses credit properly, is knowledgeable, shares her knowledge and contributes to the community. I am also empowered because I am able to participate in farming of crops and vegetables, educate my children and speak at community meetings, as I am a UNJP RWEE beneficiary.

A 40-years-old empowered woman
WHAT’S NEXT?

• CONSOLIDATE
• REPLICATE
• SCALE-UP
Thank you!

For additional information, please visit:

http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/RWF00

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