

JOINT PROGRAMME ON: Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women



Partnering for Change: Holistic Approaches to Rural Women's Economic Empowerment

Hosted by: FAO, IFAD, UN Women, WFP and Sida

25 May 2021
15:00 — 16:30pm CET



CONCEPT NOTE

Context

In order for rural women to achieve their full economic potential, a holistic approach to women's economic empowerment is needed. This involves integrated efforts that combine sustainable agriculture, nutrition and food security, economic and social development, and enabling policy environments that promote inclusive development and the rights of women. Addressing the root causes of gender inequality by working to overcome patriarchal systems and discriminatory social norms is key to removing the barriers to gender equality and women's empowerment. This includes eliminating gender-specific constraints that women face in accessing resources and opportunities, and implementing measures to expand women's capacities as farmers, entrepreneurs and leaders. Taking an integrated approach to women's economic empowerment that encompasses holistic programming has multiplying effects, leading to lasting transformative change for rural women.

Background

Since 2014, Sweden through Sida, along with Norway through Norad, have been supporting the Joint Programme "Accelerating Progress Towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women" (JP RWEE). The JP RWEE is a \$29 million global initiative implemented by FAO, IFAD, UN Women and WFP in Ethiopia, Guatemala, Liberia, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Niger and Rwanda. The programme takes a holistic approach to women's economic empowerment and, to date, has reached over 80,000 rural women and over 400,000 households. The partnership capitalizes on each participating agency's comparative advantage and institutional strength to generate lasting and broad scale improvements in the livelihoods and rights of rural women. The JP RWEE is implemented within the context of UN Reform approach and 'Delivering as One'. Ownership of the programme is ensured through the involvement of government and local partners in the programme's governance and implementation.

The programme, with the overall goal to secure women's livelihoods and rights in the context of sustainable development, has four key objectives:

1. Improve rural women's nutrition and food security;
2. Increase income and secure livelihoods;
3. Enhance the leadership and participation of women in rural communities and rural institutions;
4. Promote a more gender-responsive policy environment for rural women's economic empowerment.

Partnering for Change: Holistic Approaches to Rural Women's Economic Empowerment

The recently completed evaluation of the JP RWEE has assessed the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of the programme in securing rural women's livelihoods and rights in the context of sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda. The evaluation has found that the programme demonstrates effectiveness in bringing about transformative change for women and that it addresses social and structural barriers (social norms and institutions) that limit women's capacity to participate in decision making and prevent their economic empowerment. A planned second phase of the programme will build upon the identified learnings of the global initiative and aims to scale up the successful JP RWEE model globally, integrating climate resilience throughout the programme, and ensuring that rural women are central to efforts to build back better from COVID-19.

Objectives

- To present the findings of the JP RWEE final evaluation;
- To showcase the key achievements, lessons learned, and good practices relating to the four programme objectives;
- To examine the programme strategies and approaches that are critical to the achievement of rural women's economic empowerment and to addressing systemic gender inequalities;
- To discuss the replication and scale-up of the JP RWEE model, including support from potential partners, ahead of a planned second phase of the programme.

Format

The virtual event will be hosted as a video webinar through the Zoom cloud platform. The event will be divided into four sections:

- **Keynote Speech:** background and context of the programme and the need for joint efforts in strengthening women's economic empowerment;
- **Lightning Talks:** sharing of findings relating to the four JP RWEE outcome areas;
- **Interactive Dialogue:** reactions and reflections to the evaluation findings and ways in which learning will be incorporated into scaling up the programme and developing a second phase; interactive dialogue with Member States, participating agencies and implementing partners;
- **Q & A:** moderated Q&A session in which audience members will be invited to share questions for the panellists.

Target audience

UN Member States, resource partners and development financiers, UN agencies, development actors, researchers and practitioners.

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[Registration for this event](#)

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