



CSW 66: Virtual Side Event Concept Note  
Wednesday 23rd March, 09:00 EST (14:00 CET)

‘Empowering Rural Women through a Climate  
Resilience Lens’



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



Investing in rural people



## CONCEPT NOTE

### SUMMARY

The UN Joint Programme “Accelerating Progress Towards Rural Women’s Economic Empowerment” (JP RWEE) implemented by FAO, IFAD, UN Women and WFP in Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Nepal, Niger and Rwanda (2014 to 2021) generated important learnings for building the resilience of rural women through economic empowerment interventions. This event will launch a new phase of the JP RWEE that will even further enhance its holistic approach to advancing rural women’s economic empowerment by integrating a climate resilience lens to tackle deep rooted social norms which limit women’s participation and leadership in rural communities including through applying gender transformative approaches. The event will feature the experiences from Nepal, the Pacific Islands and Tanzania, and will include stories of change and voices from communities, including those affected by climate change.

### OBJECTIVES

- i. Launch** the new phase of the UN Joint Programme ‘Accelerating Progress Towards Rural Women’s Economic Empowerment’ (JP RWEE)
- ii. Share** findings on how advancing rural women’s economic empowerment programming can contribute to building both the economic and social resilience of rural women.
- iii. Showcase** the perspectives and voices from rural women and communities affected by climate change and ways in which inclusive interventions involving multiple stakeholders can work to tackle the barriers to gender equality and empowerment and improve outcomes for rural women.

### FORMAT

The virtual side event will be hosted as a video webinar through the Zoom cloud platform. The event will be divided into two parts. The first part will involve speakers from Nepal, along with new JP RWEE programme countries the Pacific Islands and Tanzania, and will include experience sharing and perspectives of rural women participating in the programme, local and national government, and UN actors in relation to building climate resilience through rural women’s economic empowerment. The second part will be a moderated discussion with relevant stakeholders regarding the critical enabling factors required to overcome barriers to the empowerment of rural women in an ever increasingly complex and challenging environment.

**'Empowering Rural Women through a Climate Resilience Lens'  
Findings from UN Joint Programming**

## TARGET AUDIENCE

This side event is targeted at Member States, development actors and other practitioners interested in joint programmes and holistic approaches that build resilience into rural women's economic empowerment interventions. Outreach will include targeting resource mobilisation partners to further scale up this proven and critical joint programme model.

## ABOUT JP RWEE

The Rome Based Agencies and UN Women implemented the Joint Programme on Rural Women's Economic Empowerment from October 2014 to June 2021. The programme was implemented during a period of accelerating and increasingly devastating shocks, primarily caused by natural disasters attributed to climate change. A number of learnings regarding the need to integrate resilience approaches into women's empowerment programming were generated and a climate resilience lens has been incorporated into the design of the next phase of the programme. This phase of the programme will launch initially in Nepal, Niger, the Pacific Islands, Tanzania and Tunisia, with a view to upscaling to additional countries with the support of additional resource partners. Through this joint approach, the agencies work together to provide holistic and integrated interventions for rural women, including the most marginalized, encompassing social, economic and political domains of empowerment. The programme aims to secure rural women's livelihoods, rights and resilience and, more specifically, to improve rural women's nutrition and food security and contribute to equitable and sustainable food systems; increase women's income and access to decent work; increase rural women's participation and leadership in rural communities and institutions, and strengthen gender responsive policy environments. Critical to interventions is the role of local and national government and other stakeholders. Key programme learnings and the experiences of women and other stakeholders from climate change affected communities will serve as a basis for discussion and debate on the integration of climate resilience and gender transformative approaches into rural women's economic empowerment programming. The event will serve to launch the new phase of the programme and set the stage for exploring new opportunities for partnership.

## CONTACT

For further information about the event, please contact Catherine McCarron, JP RWEE Global Coordinator:  
[catherine.mccarron@wfp.org](mailto:catherine.mccarron@wfp.org)

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

**Wednesday, 23 March 2022**

**09:00 – 10:15 EST**

**(14:00 – 15:15 CET)**

[Registration for this event](#)