

Final evaluation of the Kyrgyzstan Joint UN Women/ FAO/ IFAD/ WFP Programme on Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women



Final Report

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List of Acronyms

CDA	Community Development Alliance
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
EMG	Evaluation Management Group
ERG	Evaluation Reference Group
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GALS	Gender Action Learning System
GEWE	Gender Equality & Women Empowerment
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NSC	National Statistical Committee
NSC	National Steering Committee
PO	Producer organization
RWEE	Rural women's economic empowerment
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SHG	Self-help group
USAID	US Agency for International Development
WEAI	Women Empowerment in Agriculture Index
WFP	World Food Programme

Glossary of local terms used in the evaluation report

Kyrgyzstan JP RWEE regularly uses a number of local terms transliterated into English. The evaluation report is also using these terms. The following glossary provides explanations of these terms for readers outside Kyrgyzstan.

Aiyl aimak	Rural municipality
Aiyl okmotu	Municipal office
Kenesh	Local council
Som	Kyrgyzstan currency. In March 2018 one some was equivalent to USD 0,0147.
Sotka	A measure of land area equal to 100 square meters widely used in the CIS region

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Acknowledgements and Disclaimer

The evaluation team would like to express the deepest gratitude to all people (143 women and 30 men) who contributed their time and shared their experiences and ideas throughout the evaluation process. We are particularly thankful to all the project beneficiaries who shared their inspiring stories of change with us through interviews and change maps.

Special thanks are due to Jipara Turmamatova, UN Women, and Kyial Arabaeva, WFP, who were instrumental in organizing the field visits, as well as to local activists and social workers in the visited villages who organized all meetings.

The evaluation team also acknowledges the important contributions made by members of the Evaluation Management Groups (EMG) and the Evaluation Reference Group (ERG). Through Theory of Change workshop in the beginning of the evaluation and Data Validation workshop right after the field mission members of the EMG enhanced the understanding of the program by the evaluation teams and helped to put evaluation findings in context to ensure usefulness of the evaluation findings. Members of the ERG helped to further the analysis and validated a number of evaluation findings.

Special thanks are also due to Isabel Suarez, UN Women Regional Evaluation Specialist, for her continuous guidance and efforts to provide quality assurance throughout all phases of the evaluation process. Finally, the evaluation team would like to acknowledge support provided by Jyldyz Kuvatova, UN Women, who managed this evaluation on behalf of the four UN agencies who jointly implement the evaluated programme.

Though the evaluation process was highly participatory and collaborative, the evaluation team has maintained independence through all of the evaluation process.

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Executive Summary

Background

Kyrgyzstan is one of seven countries where UN Women, FAO, IFAD and WFP implement the Joint Programme on Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women (JP RWEE). This report presents findings, conclusions, lessons learned and recommendations of the evaluation of the implementation of the Joint Programme on Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women (JP RWEE) in Kyrgyzstan. The evaluation covered the period from November 2014 till March 2018 in all five regions where the JP RWEE was implemented: Naryn, Chuy, Jalal-Abad, Osh and Batken. The evaluation looked at all aspects of the programme implementation.

Rural women play a central role in the development of Kyrgyzstan, providing a significant proportion of agricultural labour force, playing a key role in food production and nutrition, and performing most of the unpaid care work, thereby supporting reproduction of the Kyrgyzstani society. At the same time rural women and girls have significantly less access to productive resources, which limits the efficiency of the agricultural sector. They face more difficulty than men in gaining access to public services, social protection, decent employment opportunities, and local and national markets and institutions. Unpaid care work further hampers rural women's ability to take advantage of on- and off-farm employment and market opportunities in the agricultural sector. These challenges facing rural women have been further amplified by the combined impact of the recent economic and financial crises, high and volatile food and fuel prices, climate change, the insufficient investment in rural development and agriculture, and demographic changes.

In Kyrgyzstan the programme works towards achievement of three Outcomes:

- Outcome 1. Rural women have increased income, better livelihoods and food security from enhanced agricultural productivity.
- Outcome 2. Rural women have mastered leadership and actively participate in shaping laws, policies and systems of service provision at local and central levels.
- Outcome 3. A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women.

The JP RWEE activities were implemented in 73 villages located in five regions and reached women in 2731 poor rural households. Programme villages belong to two cohorts. In the first cohort of 45 villages programme implementation started in 2015, the second cohort of 28 villages joined the programme in 2016.

The operational models used by the JP RWEE in the first and second cohorts are somewhat different. For example, GALS was applied only in the first cohort of villages. Group economic initiatives were initiated

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