



**PROJECT TITLE: JOINT PROGRAM ON ACCERELATINGPROGRESS
TOWARDS RURAL WOMEN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT.**

THE JP RWEE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP REPORT

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Joint Program on Accelerating Progress towards Rural Women’s Economic Empowerment (JP RWEE) is a global initiative with an overarching goal to secure rural women’s livelihoods, rights and resilience in the context of sustainable development, Agenda 2030. The program is currently in its second phase and is being implemented in Nepal, Niger, the Pacific Islands, Rwanda Tanzania, and Tunisia.

Jointly implemented by FAO, IFAD, UN Women and WFP, the JP RWEE adopts a holistic approach to rural women's economic empowerment, building on each agency's comparative advantage and strengths in order to improve the status of women in rural areas.

The JP RWEE has four main outcomes:

- ✓ Improved food security and nutrition;
- ✓ Increased income, decent work and economic autonomy;
- ✓ Enhanced participation and leadership in rural life and institutions;
- ✓ More gender-responsive policy environment

Addressing the root causes of gender inequality by working to overcome patriarchal systems and discriminatory social norms is crucial to removing the barriers to gender equality and achieving women’s empowerment. The JP RWEE works towards addressing gender-specific constraints that rural women face in accessing resources and opportunities and implementing measures to enhance women’s agency and expand their capacities as farmers, entrepreneurs and leaders.

In Rwanda JP-RWEE is implemented by different local NGOs as implementing partners on ground and SAFE is one of them.

INTRODUCTION

SAFE is one of the few Rwandan NGOs with a strong mandate of fighting hunger and poverty in the realm of climate change. Its mission is to support in practical ways peoples and their communities to live a healthy, productive and economic life by challenging systems and practices which hamper this situation to happen without compromising the natural resource base and biodiversity that future generations will live on.

From 2017 SAFE has partnered with IFAD in consortium with other program partners to implement a Joint Program of Rural Women Economic Empowerment “JP-RWEE” with the aim to promote gender equality, rural women leadership and economic empowerment through the Gender Action Learning System (GALS), which was updated to GALS+ that integrates nutrition and climate change.

SAFE intends to scale up GALS+ within its current zone of influence and in the rest of Rwanda through partnerships such as JP RWEE to respond to the need of triggering and consolidating gender changes within the community, farming cooperatives and groups, by ensuring that competencies such as entrepreneurship and business skills and financial literacy are deepened in GALS and lead to complete and sustainable women empowerment.

SAFE is currently implementing Joint Program on Accelerating Progress towards Rural Women’s Economic Empowerment (JP RWEE) phase II 2023 to 2024 in Rwanda in the five districts that is Ngoma, Kirehe in Eastern part of Rwanda, Gisagara and Nyaruguru in Southern part of Rwanda and Nyamasheke in Western part of Rwanda training GALS+ Climate change and nutrition, Financial literacy and Business Development and following up of 1200 beneficiaries.

Main activities implemented.

1. SAFE participated in Technical Working Group Meeting organized by all UN Agencies held at WFP.

Together with other implementing partners, SAFE Project coordinator and the Field Facilitators participated in the JP RWEE Technical Working Group meeting. The meeting was held on 5th March 2024 at WFP Headquarters and was attended by JPRWEE PUNOs representatives and each Agency Service Providers including SAFE (IFAD), INADES (FAO, WFP) and RDO (UN WOMEN). During the Technical Working Group meeting, participants were updated on JPRWEE implementation, reviewed the JP RWEE Communication Strategy & Communication work plan and tools, discussed on JP RWEE results framework and tracker including key indicators and exchanged on key strategies to be used to establish JPRWEE Community Feedback Mechanisms among rights holders such as Toll-free, SMS, suggestions boxes, etc.

The meeting was held on 5th /March/2024 from 09:00 AM-02:00 PM at WFP Head Office / Kigali

Participants:

1. Mrs. Mutinta [WFP Acting Deputy Country Director]
2. Mr. Ibrahim [Head of SAMS-WFP]
3. Mr. John Bosco Murangira [NC JP RWEE]
4. Mrs. Christine Tuyisenge [IFAD – JP RWEE focal point]
5. Mr. Ntambara Mike [JP RWEE MEAL Coordinator UN Women]
6. UN Agencies communication focal persons [WFP, FAO]
7. WFP SAMS field based staff [Kirehe, Huye, Ngoma]
8. JP RWEE Implementing Partners head offices and field based staff [SAFE, RDO, INADES Formation Rwanda, RWARRI, Equity Bank]
9. Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM) managing team

Agenda:

- ✚ Welcome and introduction,
- ✚ Welcoming remarks,
- ✚ Presentation on: JP RWEE overview for both phase I and II
- ✚ Presentation on: JP RWEE Communication Strategy & Comms work plan and tools,
- ✚ Open discussions,
- ✚ Presentation on: JP RWEE community feedback mechanism (CFM),
- ✚ Open discussions on the role of field-based staff in data collection for CFM,
- ✚ Presentation on JP RWEE results framework and tracker,
- ✚ Discussions on results framework and tracker,
- ✚ Closing Remarks-Action Points going forward.

- **Welcome and introduction:**

The meeting was called to order at [09:50 AM] by [**Mrs. Christine Tuyisenge**, IFAD JP RWEE Focal point]. Attendees introduced themselves, stating their respective organizations/agencies and roles within the joint program.

- **Opening remarks:**

The welcoming remarks was given by Mrs. Mutinta, WFP DCD where she welcomed all participants, recognized the great work being done and opened the meeting officially.

- **Presentation on: JP RWEE overview for both phase I and II**

This was presented by Mr. John Bosco Murangira the JP RWEE National Coordinator, he gave a brief overview of the JP RWEE phase I, the success stories, the way forward of Phase II.

- **Presentation on: JP RWEE Communication Strategy & Comms work plan and tools**

Mr. John Paul the communication focal person at WFP and Claire from FAO emphasized on the communication strategies, importance and tools to be used during the delivering of information on field.

- **Presentation on: JP RWEE community feedback mechanism (CFM)**

Mrs. Cholette one of the CFM managing team dived deeper into what is CFM; Accountability to Affected Population (AAP) the approaches and mechanisms that should be used to collect information from beneficiaries then winded up with the group discussions where participants came up with ideas and hints on how to go about it.

- **Presentation on JP RWEE results framework and tracker**

Mr. Ntambara Mike JP RWEE MEAL coordinator at UN Women narrated more on JP RWEE ultimate goal, outcomes, outputs and indicators of success.

- **Closing Remarks-Action Points going forward**

The meeting was officially closed by Mr. Ibrahim the Head of SAMS WFP, by appreciating the participants for the collective efforts upon making it vibe and looking forward for significant results.

Conclusion:

In inert shell, the meeting brought together all the PUNOs and the service providers which encouraged connection and working together as a team since were all have common goals and objectives and working for same beneficiaries.

Also reminded all service providers and others involved in the value chain to aim at transformation of the beneficiaries in all aspects of life that will lead to:

- ✓ Improved food security and nutrition;
- ✓ Increased income, decent work and economic autonomy;
- ✓ Enhanced participation and leadership in rural life and institutions.