

## CONCEPT NOTE

CSW67: Virtual Side Event:

### 'Strengthening Sustainable Livelihoods and Access to Markets for Rural Women: Experiences from the Joint Programme on Rural Women's Economic Empowerment'

Hosted by: FAO, IFAD, UN Women, WFP  
Tuesday 14 March 2023 09:00-10:15 EST (14:00-15:15 CET)



JOINT PROGRAMME ON:  
Accelerating Progress towards  
Rural Women's Economic Empowerment



#### SUMMARY

The UN Joint Programme "Accelerating Progress Towards Rural Women's Economic Empowerment" (JP RWEE) is being implemented by FAO, IFAD, UN Women and WFP in Nepal, Niger, the Pacific Islands (Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Tonga), Tanzania, Tunisia and Rwanda. The programme takes a holistic approach to address the multi-faceted barriers to women's economic empowerment, implementing diverse programme strategies that take into account intersecting forms of discrimination faced by rural women.

On the margins of CSW67 that will cover 'Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls' as its Priority Theme and 'Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls' as its Review Theme, this side event will share experiences and good practices from programme implementation, including a focus on increasing women's access to markets and value chains, and achieving sustainable livelihoods, including through enabling rural women's access to technology and innovations. The event will feature speakers from JP RWEE country programmes in Nepal, Niger and Rwanda. They will share experiences of holistic programme approaches that have successfully responded to the differing and varied needs of rural women to collectively achieve their economic empowerment.

#### OBJECTIVES

- i. Share good practices in holistic programming for women's economic empowerment, including a focus on experiences from Nepal, Niger and Rwanda.
- ii. Discuss strategies and approaches required at policy and programme level to accelerate rural women's economic empowerment.

## **FORMAT**

The virtual side event will be hosted as a video webinar through the Zoom cloud platform. The event will involve speakers from Nepal, Niger and Rwanda, as well as partners engaged in the implementation of the JP RWEE and UN agency specialists. The discussion will focus on the multi-faceted and intersecting challenges facing rural women and on effective strategies to overcome them. These include the implementation of programme approaches that directly address the strengthening of livelihoods and market access for rural women, while also transforming gender inequitable social norms and creating gender responsive policy environments required to secure rural women's livelihoods, rights and resilience.

## **TARGET AUDIENCE**

This side event is targeted at Member States, development actors and other practitioners interested in joint programmes that create synergies, combine technical expertise and apply holistic approaches in order to achieve women's economic empowerment and gender equality. 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 in Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Nepal, Niger and Rwanda. A second phase of the programme was started in 2022 in Nepal, Niger, the Pacific Islands, Tanzania, Tunisia and Rwanda. This unique partnership seeks to tackle the barriers to gender equality and women's economic empowerment through holistic and integrated interventions, encompassing social, economic and political domains of empowerment. The programme aims to secure rural women's livelihoods, rights and resilience in order to improve nutrition and food security and contribute to equitable and sustainable food systems; increase women's incomes 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 the interventions is the role of local and national governments and other stakeholders.

## **CONTACT**

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

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