Application of the Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) in the Joint Programme on Rural Women’s Economic Empowerment in Kyrgyzstan (UN Women/FAO/IFAD/WFP)

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WEAI is a survey-based index designed to measure the empowerment, agency, and inclusion of women in the agricultural sector.

Developed by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) for USAID Feed the Future Initiative.

**Domains:**
- Decision-making about production
- Ownership of, access to, and decision-making power about productive resources
- Control over the use of income and expenditures
- Leadership in the community: membership in economic or social groups and comfort speaking in public
- Time allocation for productive and domestic tasks and for leisure
Joint Programme on Rural Women’s Economic Empowerment in Kyrgyzstan (JP RWEE)

Intended 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, polices 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.

Main modalities:

• Setting Self-Help Groups and community association of SHGs

• Agricultural skill building

• Small loans to start income-generating activities

• Gender Action Learning System (in the first of two cohorts of communities)
Use of WEAI in final evaluation of JP RWEE

We used WEAI domains as a framework to guide data collection (through participatory change maps exercise) and data analysis.
Evaluation results based on WEAI

Evaluation found significant differences in results between cohorts that can be attributed to use of GALs.

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<tr>
<th>Empowerment aspects</th>
<th>First cohort</th>
<th>Second cohort</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increased participation in productive decisions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Increased decision-making power over income use</td>
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<td>More social contacts</td>
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<td>Increased confidence of speaking in public</td>
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<td>Getting basic leadership skills</td>
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<td>Becoming community leaders</td>
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<td>Less leisure time due to participation in income generating activities</td>
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<td>Increased status in the family</td>
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<td>More equal distribution of domestic tasks</td>
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<td>More time for themselves</td>
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Links

  http://ebrary.ifpri.org/cdm/singleitem/collection/p15738coll2/id/127346

• Final evaluation of the Joint programme on: Accelerating Progress Towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women (JP-RWEE): 
  https://gate.unwomen.org/Evaluation/Details?EvaluationId=11308