

A rural landscape in Kyrgyzstan featuring a large hayrack filled with hay in the foreground, a stone wall, and a wooden fence. In the background, there are tall poplar trees, a small mud-brick building, and mountains under a cloudy sky. A person in a white hard hat and dark jacket is visible in the lower left, and another person is walking in the middle ground.

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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Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI)

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, 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.

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

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

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

Links

- Alkire, Sabina; Meinzen-Dick, Ruth Suseela; Peterman, Amber; Quisumbing, Agnes R.; Seymour, Greg and Vaz, Ana. 2012. The Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index. IFPRI Discussion Paper 1240. Washington, D.C.: International Food Policy Research Institute.
<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>