

JOINT PROGRAMME:

Accelerating Progress towards
Rural Women's Economic Empowerment



JP RWEE TARGETING GOOD PRACTICES

United Nations Joint Programme on Accelerating Progress
Towards Rural Women's Economic Empowerment (JP RWEE)

Following the inception phase of the Joint Programme on Accelerating Rural Women's Economic Empowerment (JP RWEE), participating countries implemented **community-driven targeting approaches** to ensure no one was left behind. The four programme outcomes guided the creation of eligibility criteria specific to each country, always prioritising the most vulnerable rural women in food-insecure communities and applying an **intersectional lens** to address multiple forms of discrimination they may face.

Community mapping and profiling enabled thorough understandings of demographics,

resources, and needs. Community leaders and representatives from diverse groups assisted in **identifying eligible participants** and they tailored **communication strategies** to ensure targeting information reached relevant communities as well as installing **registration and feedback mechanisms**, honouring **transparency and accountability** responsibilities.

This paper highlights targeting good practices from Fiji, Nepal, Niger, Tanzania, Tunisia and Rwanda.



Food and Agriculture
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IFAD
Investing in rural people



World Food
Programme

Challenges accessing remote areas

Led by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and Partners in Community Development Fiji (PCDF), numerous **religious, indigenous groups and representatives** participated in the targeting process, bringing diverse perspectives and insights. Involving local organisation PCDF and harnessing its networks, facilitated identifying and communicating with participants.

INTERSECTIONALITY FOCUS	
	ETHNIC GROUPS OR INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY MEMBERS
	WOMEN LIVING WITH DISABILITIES
	SINGLE MOTHERS

IFAD's established presence and local knowledge was harnessed to identify villages which, despite previous efforts, continued to face marginalisation, primarily due to persistent gender-discriminatory social norms and challenges in physical access to markets, hindering women's economic empowerment. For example, Indo-Fijian women have no land ownership rights and are only able to rent it from the government or local communities.

Local project committees and village-level **community facilitators** played a crucial role supporting the participant selection process, serving as intermediaries and facilitating communication between villages, the partner, and districts. That process ensured that local perspectives and needs were accurately represented and appropriately addressed.

Partners' unique **local knowledge, experiences and community perspectives were critical** for targeting given Fiji's challenging context of remote villages which were further cut off during the rainy season. Approximately 30 percent of inland villages become inaccessible due to flooding, requiring enumerators to navigate across rivers and rugged terrain to reach isolated communities. Furthermore, Fiji's villages are often small, with an average population of only 50 to 150 households each. This increased the complexity of logistics, as these villages and settlements were spread out over considerable distances from each other.

NEPAL

Engaging with community-level organisations

Nepal's focused on identifying intersecting forms of discrimination and inequality faced by rural women, through discussions between the UN agencies and their partners, analyses of data from secondary and primary sources, and community consultations and focus group discussions with identified group representatives including those from differing ethnic and religious groups, those living with disabilities, those from lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex (LGBTQI+) groups, and survivors of gender-based violence.

INTERSECTIONALITY FOCUS	
	ETHNIC GROUPS, ESPECIALLY DALIT WOMEN
	WOMEN LIVING WITH DISABILITIES
	LGBTQI+ PERSONS
	SURVIVORS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Targeting was conducted jointly with those community-level organisations, local governments and their networks which hold administrative records already identifying people living with disabilities and survivors of gender-based violence. Local networks were also vital in identifying LGBTQI+ networks.

The comprehensive community selection process was validated when agencies demonstrated that almost all identified households met the programme requirements with exceptions in only two villages.

To mitigate a low participation of women and often-excluded groups, community discussions were arranged at times convenient for women who often do not participate in similar programmes due to gender-discriminatory norms and heavy workloads.

The JP RWEE team used WFP's **community feedback mechanism (*Namaste*)** to facilitate ongoing monitoring of participant feedback, inclusion and exclusion errors.

NIGER

Joint community and agency-led approach

Niger demonstrated that active collaboration with local community, and government offices from national to communal levels was essential for a robust targeting approach. Each provided logistics support and played a pivotal role in validating criteria during regional and communal workshops, contributing to ensuring data quality. At federal and local levels, they also organised awareness campaigns and conducted community consultations.

government representatives providing support and facilitation where necessary.

Participants' personal information was **registered in an off-line database** accessible only to the Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator to mitigate risks associated with potential impartiality of actors **responsible for household identification in the villages**. Community leaders were also **sensitised on the importance of fairness**.

Community meetings played a vital role in ensuring data accuracy and a deep understanding of the demographics and vulnerabilities of each community.

INTERSECTIONALITY FOCUS	
	WIDOWS
	ILLITERATE WOMEN
	YOUNG MOTHERS

The JP RWEE team reflected that having one agency leading a team in each community facilitated efficient data collection.

Community leaders established selection committees (*Assemblée générale*) and complaint committees in each community, ensuring transparency and limiting potential biases. Inclusion and exclusion errors were verified as part of the continuous monitoring process.. The selection committees compiled primary data through physical household visits, community consultations and focus group discussions, with JP RWEE agencies and local

TANZANIA

Using each organisation's strengths and areas of operation

In Tanzania, the agencies divided the targeting process based on their geographic comparative advantage, such as existing relationships with local government authorities and experience working with communities.

households. They also took responsibility for communicating and verifying eligibility criteria.

INTERSECTIONALITY FOCUS	
	SINGLE FEMALE HOUSEHOLD HEADS
	WOMEN LIVING WITH DISABILITIES OR CHRONIC HEALTH ISSUES OR LIVING WITH PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES
	BREASTFEEDING OR PREGNANT WOMEN

FAO and IFAD in Zanzibar, and UN Women in Singida consulted with local government on the process, particularly through community development offices which facilitated community mobilisation and oversaw the participant selection process. **Village leaders were especially supportive of the selection process and in mobilising potential**

TUNISIA

Community-based participation

Community-based participatory planning workshops occurred in ten areas of Kairouan and Jendouba Governorates to identify women's productive groups interested in participating in the programme. There was wide community representation at the workshops with participation from 24 agricultural development groups and cooperatives. 423 people participated, of which 383 were female, underscoring a strong female presence in the planning process.

In addition, civil society organizations, particularly those working with people living with disabilities, were engaged in the targeting process. Their presence brought an additional perspective on inclusion.

INTERSECTIONALITY FOCUS



WOMEN FROM POOR HOUSEHOLDS



HOUSEHOLDS WITH PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES



BREASTFEEDING OR PREGNANT WOMEN

By including professional agricultural organizations such as *Groupements de Développement Agricole*, *Groupements Féminin de Développement Agricole*, and *Sociétés Mutuelles de services agricoles*, the **JP RWEE agencies ensured a connection between a women and men at the village level, alongside the Ministry of Agriculture's extension services.**

RWANDA

Multiple layers of validation

Participating agencies worked closely with various stakeholders to ensure a robust targeting mechanism was established and later thoroughly checked to mitigate exclusion errors, risks of biased selection, risks of corruption and risks of overlapping with other programmes.

INTERSECTIONALITY FOCUS	
	WOMEN AND MEN FROM POOR HOUSEHOLDS
	HOUSEHOLDS WITH PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES
	SINGLE MOTHERS
	SURVIVORS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Line ministries, specifically the Directorate of Planning at the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources and the Directorate of Gender Promotion and Women Empowerment at the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion, contributed to drafting selection criteria, choosing target areas, and agreeing on participant numbers. Local authorities at all levels were also involved.

The JP RWEE **National Steering Committee** (co-chaired by government and WFP) led decisions regarding the areas of intervention and validated eligibility criteria. **District focal points** disseminated information to lower administrative levels, sent validated participant lists to all agencies, and played a liaison role between the programme, local authorities, and communities.

The **community assembly** (*Inteko y'abaturage*), a local structure in Rwanda, served as a vital platform for community identification and decision-making, playing a key role validating participant lists alongside local government involvement.

PARTICIPANT DATA (WITH OVERLAPS)							
CATEGORY	FIJI	NEPAL	NIGER	RWANDA	TANZANIA	TUNISIA	TOTAL
TOTAL DIRECT BENEFICIARIES	2,040	6,000	15,000	9,101	8,000	3,000	43,141
MEN	80	500	3,000	1,759	1,413	780	7,532
RURAL WOMEN	1,960	5,500	12,000	7,342	6,587	2,200	35,609
FEMALE-HEADED HOUSEHOLDS	411	1,000	6,500	1,800	670	180	10,561
BREASTFEEDING AND PREGNANT WOMEN	34	2,000	173	150	580	150	3,087
OLDER WOMEN (OVER 65)	200	600	3,000	120	870	89	4,879
ADOLESCENT GIRLS (15-18)	120	1,002	5,000	560	987	12	7,681
TEEN MOTHERS	–	300	2,300	101	170	–	2,871
WIDOWS	89	300	177	55	133	109	863
WOMEN LIVING WITH DISABILITIES	20	100	1,299	131	17	30	1,597
INDO-FIJIAN WOMEN	193	–	–	–	–	–	193
DALIT WOMEN	–	400	–	–	–	–	400
JANAJATI WOMEN	–	650	–	–	–	–	650
MUSLIM WOMEN	–	50	–	–	–	–	50
LGBTQI+	–	50	–	–	–	–	50
SURVIVORS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE	–	350	–	–	–	–	350

Photo page 1: Shrawan Kumar Shrestha/UN Women