Dear colleagues, partners and friends,

It gives me tremendous pleasure to welcome you to this second edition of the past year ‘In Review’ of the Joint Programme.

2021 cemented the JP GTA’s role at the forefront of global initiatives to mainstream gender transformative approaches for food security and nutrition. We scaled up activities within the United Nations Rome-based Agencies, FAO, IFAD and WFP; expanded our work into the JP GTA’s two focus countries, Ecuador and Malawi; and built or strengthened links with various development actors.

The following pages provide a snapshot of the Joint Programme’s achievements in 2021, alongside tools and information you might find useful for incorporating gender transformative approaches into your projects, programmes and ways of working.

To find out what we are doing in 2022, I encourage you to join our community of over 1,300 mailing list subscribers from across the Rome-based Agencies, other UN organizations, European institutions, governments, research organizations and NGOs.

The canvas connecting the pieces of the JP GTA puzzle is “collaboration”: within each of the Rome-based Agencies; between headquarters and country levels; between the Rome-based Agencies and the European Union; between the JP GTA and its external partners.

The Joint Programme is proof that we can achieve more sustainable impact when we eliminate silos and join efforts to combine our knowledge, experiences and efforts.

Many of you have contributed to our accomplishments thus far, and on behalf of the entire JP GTA team, I take this opportunity to thank you for your commitment, interest and support.

We look forward to reaching new milestones together and trust we can count on your continued partnership to do so.

Best wishes, Hajnalka Petrics
Global Coordinator, JP GTA

“We are extremely pleased that the three Rome-based Agencies have come together to pursue gender transformative approaches, learn from each other and stimulate the application of successful approaches around the world.”

Willem Olthof, Deputy Head of Unit, Sustainable Agri-Food Systems and Fisheries, Directorate-General for International Partnerships, European Commission

2021 in Review

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Introduction

The ‘2021 In Review’ offers an overview of the milestones, achievements and activities of the EU-RBA Joint Programme on Gender Transformative Approaches for Food Security and Nutrition (JP GTA) over the course of the past year. The report is broadly structured along the four pillars of the Joint Programme, with sections focusing on:

1. knowledge generation (p. 3)
2. country-level activities (p. 4)
3. capacity development and learning (p. 6)
4. policy support and institutional engagement (p. 10)

Building synergies around gender transformative approaches (GTAs) is critical to ensuring the success of the Joint Programme and contributing to Sustainable Development Goals 2 and 5, zero hunger and gender equality. In 2021, internal collaboration within the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) and the European Union (EU) was intensified through strong programme coordination mechanisms, in-depth consultation on conceptual frameworks, and extensive cooperation on training, events, publications and information materials.

Underpinning and sustaining every aspect of the Joint Programme is the strong partnership with the EU. Through the European Commission’s Directorate-General for International Partnerships, the EU provides strategic guidance, implementation support and funding to the JP GTA, which in turn is inspired by and contributes to the EU Gender Action Plan (GAP) III. The Joint Programme’s contribution to the GAP III falls under several areas, including through its conceptual work on GTAs, by addressing gender inequalities in key areas of engagement, sharing knowledge and experiences, and promoting an institutional shift towards gender equality.

Recognizing the potential to capitalize on the experiences of other organizations working on GTAs, the Joint Programme also created external partnerships on programme implementation, learning sessions and webinars. With the support of Georgetown University’s Institute for Reproductive Health, the JP GTA is exploring social norms in Ecuador. It is also working with the CGAP/FinEquity community of practice to test its methodology regarding gendered social norms in financial inclusion in Malawi. Other key partners include the CGIAR GENDER Platform and CARE International, with whom it organized events and training sessions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5</th>
<th>JP GTA events</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>contributions to trainings, events and publications</td>
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<td>mailing list subscribers by December 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>capacity building workshops</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>JP GTA knowledge products and newsletters</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>new partnerships</td>
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<td>More than 1,000 people reached through JP GTA and third-party events and workshops</td>
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<td>86% increase in mailing recipients*</td>
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<td>new website</td>
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* from 450 in January 2021 to 837 in December 2021

2021 at a glance
Knowledge generation

Behavioural science recommendations
IFAD conducted a study on behaviour change for women’s empowerment in Ecuador, paving the way for capacity development interventions. The study aims to guide development experts on how to ensure that behavioural barriers are addressed in rural development interventions to enable effective, inclusive and sustainable development pathways. Following the study, a guide was prepared with recommendations for designing gender transformative programmes supported by IFAD. The publication examines how behavioural barriers and biases contribute to perpetuating the gender gap and how behavioural science tools can help reduce such barriers and biases.

Spanish | ENGLISH AND FRENCH VERSIONS COMING SOON

Compendium in Spanish
With a view to making knowledge generated by the JP GTA accessible to a wider audience, the JP GTA has released a Spanish version of the Compendium of fifteen good practices, previously published in English in 2020. The Compendium showcases successful GTAs across different settings, outlining good practices and experiences that contribute to positive gender-related transformational changes.

Spanish | English | FRENCH VERSION COMING SOON

Gender equality incentive and mainstreaming mechanisms
The JP GTA summarized and published a report on the outcomes of a 2020 RBA knowledge exchange event on good practices in corporate gender equality mechanisms and gender mainstreaming programmes. The knowledge exchange was aimed at enhancing peer-to-peer learning and experience sharing on how to promote institutional engagement for gender equality.

Read and download
We are online!

In November 2021, the JP GTA launched its website. The site functions as the central communication platform for information and updates from the Joint Programme. It also serves as a resource hub to increase awareness, provide learning opportunities and share knowledge products about gender transformative approaches to address the underlying causes of gender inequalities as a means to improve food security and nutrition.


SPANISH AND FRENCH VERSIONS COMING SOON

Country-level activities

Ecuador

On 1 December 2021, the Government of Ecuador and the RBAs officially launched the JP GTA in the country through a high-level event in Quito. The event aimed at promoting intersectoral and inter-institutional coordination for food security, improved nutrition and sustainable agriculture. It counted on the participation of various local government authorities as well as women leaders of different farmers’ organizations from across Ecuador. The mixed group of participants lent emphasis to the idea that gender equality in the context of food security and nutrition goes hand in hand with an increased participation of rural women in decision-making processes and their leadership in their organizations.

“This project that is developed in the provinces of Manabí and Imbabura, will allow, through coordinated work with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock and local governments, to promote strategies to address the root causes of gender inequality in the agri food sector, fostering transformative change processes towards gender equality and the empowerment of women.”

Agustín Zimmermann, FAO Representative in Ecuador
Malawi

In collaboration with CARE International in Malawi, the Joint Programme began working on a rapid gendered social norms diagnostic study in the Kasungu, Manchogi, Nsanje, Salima and Zomba districts of Malawi.

The objective of the study is to understand what the most prevailing gendered social norms are in relation to the financial inclusion of women and youth of selected Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) and how they affect the economic autonomy of women and youth. Local experts from the University of Malawi and the Lilongwe University for Agriculture and Natural Resources are taking part in the study to generate and transfer knowledge and learning and develop capacity.

To conduct the study, the team is applying the diagnostic guidance on gendered social norms of CGAP/FinEquity, combined with the Social Norms Exploration Tool (SNET), a participatory learning and action tool of Georgetown University’s Institute for Reproductive Health.

Meanwhile, WFP worked to integrate the gender transformative perspective within its ongoing portfolio which includes activities such as food assistance for assets (FFA), VSLAs and smallholder agriculture market support (SAMS) for participating farmers. It also forged field-level technical partnerships with the Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services and the Malawi University of Science and Technology.

FAO identified local partners to implement its Dimitra Clubs approach in the districts of Kasungu and Mangochi. Clusters of Dimitra Clubs – informal community spaces for participatory analysis of common problems, discussions and action – will be set up in 10 villages in each district.

IFAD worked to up-skill project staff on gender transformative programming, sensitizing implementers as an entry point to shifting mind-sets. Special emphasis was also put on capacity building of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of Ecuador, in particular on gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, WFP identified 18 associations of smallholder farmers in the provinces of Imbabura and Manabí where it will deliver training of trainers aimed at increasing women’s equal participation in agricultural production and markets, among other areas. WFP also delivered training on gender equity to technical staff from the Ministry and local government in the two provinces. Finally, preparations went ahead for a gender analysis using the Social Norms Exploration Tool (SNET), with WFP working closely with local NGO Grupo Social FEPP.
Capacity development and learning

Sharing lessons, knowledge and tools about approaches that have proven successful in achieving transformative change towards gender equality and women’s empowerment lies at the heart of the JP GTA’s rationale. In 2021, the Joint Programme focused its efforts on a number of peer-to-peer technical webinars and internal workshops to build capacity, knowledge and skills on gender transformative programming and start the process toward mindset shift within the RBAs. It also capitalized on external opportunities to highlight or present the Joint Programme during external events.

Technical learning webinars

In a series of webinars, the Joint Programme sought to reinforce the importance and relevance of GTAs for development practitioners. With strong participation and active discussions, the events underscored the audience’s interest in learning how to integrate such approaches in their own projects and programmes. The ‘Compendium of 15 good practices’, published in 2020, is regularly promoted during all events as one of the key tools produced by the Joint Programme, assisting stakeholders in learning about the gamut of available GTAs.

Fisheries and Aquaculture

"You can count on my personal commitment, my personal engagement, and that of the entire Fisheries Division, to contribute to these important initiatives and the gender transformative agenda.”

Audun Lem, Deputy Director, Fisheries Division, FAO

In the first event, hosted as a collaboration between FAO and the CGIAR GENDER Platform, experts from the CGIAR research group presented specific examples of how to apply and upscale GTAs for wider impact and to achieve gender equality and food security in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

One of the experts, WorldFish Senior Gender Specialist Afrina Choudhury, shared insights from aquaculture projects in Bangladesh that sought to deliver new technologies to women at the homestead. She noted that gender transformative tools were essential to spark critical reflection and dialogue at the individual, household and community levels around the norm-related barriers that were hindering women’s ability to use and benefit from this technology.

Steven Cole, Senior Scientist at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, gave an example on how GTAs in a small-scale capture fisheries project in the Western Province of Zambia yielded significant results to advance gender equality. Two years into the project, the use of GTAs resulted in a significant change in gender attitudes and women’s participation in income generating activities, from processing to trading of fish.

Presenting the JP GTA, Global Coordinator Hajnalka Petrics underscored the difference between GTAs and gender responsive or accommodating approaches that do not directly address the root causes of gender inequalities; in stark contrast to GTAs, which seek to understand, challenge and, ultimately, change discriminatory norms and practices to empower women to have the same opportunities as men.

Delivering closing remarks, Audun Lem, Deputy Director for FAO’s Fisheries Division, emphasized the “strong commitment” of the division to achieve gender equality and to embed GTAs in its technical work.
The second technical webinar focused on sharing examples of transformative approaches that can improve access to financial products and services for rural women. Hosted by FAO and IFAD, the event convened experts who spoke about their experiences, promising methodologies and tangible results in financial inclusion programmes.

Presenting the results of a project in Uganda, Grace Majara, Financial Inclusion Senior Technical Advisor at CARE USA, noted that it not only strengthened women’s voice, financial autonomy and equal participation in managing household finances, but also saw a significant improvement in spousal behaviour, mutual trust and joint decision-making.

The JP GTA was pleased to welcome Willem Olthof, Deputy Head of Unit for Sustainable Agri-Food Systems and Fisheries at the EU’s DG INTPA, who highlighted the EU’s strong support for the Joint Programme as part of its commitment to promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment in international cooperation.

Steven Jonckheere, Senior Technical Specialist for Gender and Social Inclusion at IFAD, closed the event by stressing that without taking into account and acting on discriminatory social norms, there will be no progress either on the financial inclusion of rural women or – given the important role that women play in food systems – more broadly on ending hunger.

A series of technical webinars launched by IFAD in the framework of the JP GTA aims to support the scale-up of gender transformative activities within its project portfolio through practical how-to-do sessions targeting managers, experts and practitioners in charge of IFAD’s initiatives across the Global South.

At the kick-off session in December 2021, IFAD’s Technical Lab on Gender Transformative Programming introduced definitions and key concepts as well as a methodology for integrating gender transformative activities in food security and nutrition interventions. The event also showcased good practices from projects that won the latest IFAD’s Gender Awards, an annual prize given to initiatives that best meet the objectives of IFAD’s Policy on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment. The case studies presented included Kenya’s Upper Tana Catchment Natural Resources Management Project and Nigeria’s Value Chain Development Programme.
Capacity development workshops

Understanding and questioning gender-related social norms is a critical lever of gender transformative change. The Joint Programme organized a series of internal capacity development opportunities on social norms with a view to increasing awareness, knowledge and skills to address social norms within projects and programmes of the RBAs in the context of food security and nutrition.

Social norms workshop led by WFP

In April 2021, a select group of FAO and IFAD employees was invited to participate in a pilot capacity development workshop on social norms, led by WFP for the other two RBAs. WFP has been implementing trainings on social norms for its staff for several years. This pilot initiative that saw WFP extend the workshop to staff from FAO and IFAD for the first time, forms part of the JP GTA’s broader efforts to enhance collaboration among the RBAs and foster interagency learning. It also contributed to the Joint Programme’s goal of strengthening the competency of RBA staff to understand the root causes of inequalities for gender transformative programming.

“Through the transfer of information and opportunity to develop skills, this initiative aimed to increase colleagues’ understanding of and ability to address the discriminatory social norms that underpin gender inequalities,” said workshop facilitator Baton Osmani, Programme Advisor for Gender at WFP.

“Harmful gender norms and prescriptive roles for men and women influence societies by fostering discrimination, creating barriers for women – and often for men as well – and determining who has access to resources, services and benefits. Analyzing this context is important to decide which discriminatory gender norms and behaviours must be addressed to achieve change that is sustainable in the longer term,” said Silvia Sperandini, Gender and Social Inclusion Programme Support at IFAD.

Social Norms Exploration Tool (SNET)

In partnership with Georgetown University’s Institute for Reproductive Health, two multi-session workshops were held in September and December 2021 on the Social Norms Exploration Tool (SNET), a participatory methodology for investigating the informal, unwritten rules that govern the way people behave and interact within their communities.

Through the workshops, the JP GTA sought to strengthen the capacities of about 50 participants comprising staff from RBA headquarters and country offices, as well as partner organizations in its two focus countries, Ecuador and Malawi, where they are involved in the design, planning and implementation of rapid diagnostic studies to explore gender-related social norms.

Traditional research tends to consult communities and extract the findings for analysis, with no assurance that they will be acted upon. In contrast, the SNET enables people in a given setting to share their perceptions and identify, prioritize, and appraise social and other issues based on their knowledge of local conditions. By combining the sharing of insights with analysis, it provides a catalyst for the community itself – alongside the program staff – to act on what is uncovered.

“This social norms training has been very useful to my work as a gender expert. Much as we focus on challenging gender norms in most of the activities we implement, exploring social norms is very critical.”

SNET workshop participant
Social norms, assessments and indicators

Two internal webinars organized in April and May 2021 provided the RBA country offices in Ecuador and Malawi with an overview of what social norms are, why they matter, what a social norms assessment is, how to identify social norms and how to use data on social norms to improve programmes.

In October 2021, as part of the process of developing a comprehensive guide on how to formulate social norms indicators, the JP GTA then hosted an internal workshop on indicators. In the workshop, international consultant Leigh Stefanik presented the final draft of the Guide to formulating gendered social norms indicators in the context of food security and nutrition, which is expected to be published in 2022. The objective of the session was to inform colleagues about good practices to develop social norms indicators, which will be applied at the country level in Ecuador and Malawi.

Forum Theatre

“‘Our fight against hunger must encompass a profound transformation in the ways people and societies deal with gender issues, including GBV.’”

Hajnalka Petrics, JP GTA Global Coordinator

Marking the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign, IFAD hosted an online learning event in December 2021 adopting the Forum Theatre technique to spotlight common oppressive actions that may eventually lead to gender-based violence (GBV). It was one of the first attempts to apply the so-called ‘Theatre of the Oppressed’ methodology in an online session. The initiative aimed to raise awareness about unconscious gender bias and its impact in the workplace, field operations and daily life.

“The Forum Theatre contributes to identifying possible and concrete ways of interventions for GBV prevention, mitigation and response; and helps test out solutions for problematic situations in a safe and creative environment, before acting them out in the daily life,” said Ndaya Beltchika, IFAD’s Lead Technical Specialist for Gender, Targeting and Social Inclusion.

Social Analysis and Action in the context of Food and Nutrition Security (SAA-FNS)

Finally, in December 2021, FAO and CARE hosted a virtual technical learning workshop on the Social Analysis and Action in the context of Food and Nutrition Security (SAA-FNS), a tested methodology developed by CARE International in order to transform gender and social norms through a community-led participatory process. To become familiar with the methodology and discuss its application in their work, around 50 participants from the RBAs and the EU took part in the workshop.

The SAA-FNS process is led by the very communities benefiting from it. Rather than providing top-down directions, the methodology encourages collective thinking and flows through horizontal communication across community members, breaking the silos and exploring rarely or never discussed topics among them. Through a progressive series of discussions, community members accept to engage in a critical self-reflection about their gender norms, seeking to better understand their impacts on food and nutrition security, and to find motivation to change these norms if their impact is negative.
Policy support and institutional engagement

The JP GTA and the RBAs continued to support important global policy initiatives ensuring that GTAs are integrated in high-level policy dialogues, including at the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and at the United Nations Food Systems Summit.

As part of the process of fostering institutional engagement, GTAs have been integrated in several of FAO’s Programme Priority Areas under its new Strategic Framework for 2022–2031. At IFAD, 49% of projects approved for 2019–2021 were rated as gender transformative at the design stage, with 12 projects rated as fully gender transformative at implementation. Meanwhile, collaboration on GTAs with the Joint Programme and across the RBAs assisted WFP in securing an update of its Gender Policy featuring “transformative action on social norms and structural barriers” as one of its four inter-connected priorities.

Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

The JP GTA actively contributed to the work of the CFS during the e-consultation and six regional consultations for the development of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls’ Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition, and supported the preparation of the Zero and First Drafts of the Guidelines. The final version of the Guidelines will be presented for endorsement by the CFS Plenary at its 50th session in October 2022.

Food Systems Summit

"The Rome-based Agencies are implementing the JP GTA that is starting to build our own expertise on gender transformative approaches and looking at how we can change our practice. It’s a recognition that if we don’t do this, we cannot have sustainable impact."

Susan Kaaria, Senior Gender Officer, FAO

All eyes were on the United Nations Food Systems Summit in 2021. The JP GTA focused on Food Systems Action Track 4 and the preparation of a Solution Cluster 4.1.3 on Gender Transformative Approaches for Inclusive and Sustainable Food Systems.

Among others, representing the JP GTA, FAO Senior Gender Officer Susan Kaaria delivered summary and closing remarks at the Pre-Summit virtual event ‘Tackling a real problem with proven solutions: How gender-transformative approaches are key for just and sustainable food systems’, held on 27 July. In her speech, she advocated for the adoption of GTAs as part of a transformation in food systems aimed at enabling enhanced food and nutrition security. She also highlighted the Joint Programme’s efforts to assist FAO, IFAD and WFP in embedding GTAs in their projects and programmes, evolving their working modalities from “business as usual”.

Recording (FOR MS. KAARIA’S REMARKS, SCROLL TO MINUTE 47:30)
16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

In the framework of the 16 Days of Activism, representatives of FAO, IFAD and WFP made powerful references to the JP GTA in their remarks, stressing the importance of fighting the root causes of gender inequalities to combat gender-based violence and hunger. In the closing ceremony of the campaign, FAO’s Deputy Director-General Maria Helena Semedo emphasized that “the JP GTA is in a unique position to help uproot the negative socio-cultural norms and power relations that fuel gender inequalities, as well as embed gender transformative approaches in the work of the Rome-based Agencies.”

“Behavioural science has enormous potential to achieve gender equality and empower women and girls. FAO, together with our sister agencies IFAD and WFP, is implementing ‘Gender Transformative Approaches for Food Security and Nutrition’ to change our policy dialogue, programmes, institutional culture and work modalities.”

Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General, FAO

“Investments in the longer term transformation of women’s status, socially defined norms and gender roles, and improving gender equality is really key to ending gender-based violence.”

Jyotsna Puri, Associate Vice-President - Strategy and Knowledge Department, IFAD

“When the root cause of gender-based violence is gender inequality, we know that it stems from discriminatory gender roles and social norms, and we are working together to tackle the root causes of inequality through, for example, some of the social norms trainings and diagnostics.”

Valerie Guarnieri, Assistant Executive Director, WFP

Looking for a quick overview of the JP GTA?

In 2021, we produced a flyer to summarize and illustrate the Joint Programme’s objectives and activities, as well as key aspects of gender transformative approaches.

The Joint Programme on Gender Transformative Approaches for Food Security and Nutrition (JP GTA) is implemented by the United Nations Rome-based Agencies – FAO, IFAD and WFP – in collaboration with and through financial support from the European Union.

For more information, contact: JP-GTA@fao.org

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