



Joint Programme on Gender Transformative Approaches for Food Security, Improved Nutrition and Sustainable Agriculture

Working together for food security, improved nutrition and sustainable agriculture by tackling the root causes of gender inequality and triggering transformative change processes that lead to gender equality and women's empowerment.

Persisting inequalities between women and men continue to undermine global efforts to end hunger, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture and inclusive agri-food systems.

Achieving gender equality and empowering women is a multifaceted and complex undertaking that calls for coordinated action between different organizations. The three United Nations Rome-based Agencies – FAO, IFAD and WFP – have therefore come together to implement the Joint Programme on Gender Transformative Approaches for Food Security, Improved Nutrition and Sustainable Agriculture (JP GTA), with the financial support of the European Union.

“At the global level, the gender gap in the prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity has grown even larger in the year of the COVID-19 pandemic, with the prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity being 10 percent higher among women than men in 2020, compared to 6 percent in 2019.”

Source: FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. 2021. *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021. Transforming food systems for food security, improved nutrition and affordable healthy diets for all.* Rome, FAO.
<https://doi.org/10.4060/cb4474en>

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Donor: European Union

Implementing agencies:

- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- World Food Programme (WFP)

Focus countries:
Ecuador and Malawi

Duration: 1 January 2019
– 31 December 2022

EU contribution:
EUR 5 million



Joint Programme on

**Gender
Transformative
Approaches**

for Food Security and Nutrition



Funded by
the European Union

“[D]iscriminatory laws, social norms and practices have negative consequences, not only for women’s well-being but also for their families and entire societies.”

Source: OECD (2019), *SIGI 2019 Global Report: Transforming Challenges into Opportunities, Social Institutions and Gender Index*, OECD Publishing, Paris. <https://doi.org/10.1787/bc56d212-en>

Tackling gender inequality effectively through gender transformative approaches

Conventional gender-sensitive methodologies that tend to focus on treating the symptoms of gender discrimination, such as women’s unequal access to resources and benefits, without addressing the structural determinants of gender inequality, have repeatedly failed to achieve long-standing and transformative impacts.

Discriminatory gender norms and roles limit the lives of women and men. Women are often excluded from participatory and decision-making processes, often times resulting in disempowerment and their particular needs not being considered, whereas men struggle with strict and unrealistic expectations of masculinity that can result in negative behaviors and coping mechanisms.

For gender equality to become a reality, we need to adopt innovative, gender transformative approaches in designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating development programmes.

These approaches seek to actively examine, challenge and change the underlying causes of gender inequality that are rooted in imbalanced power dynamics and relations, inequitable social institutions and structures, including rigid gender norms and roles, harmful practices, unequal formal and informal rules, as well as gender-blind or discriminatory legislative and policy frameworks.

Gender-based discrimination results in:

8% loss in the global level of investment

16% reduction of women’s average years of schooling

12% decrease in labour force participation

USD 6 trillion loss in global income

Source: OECD (2019), *SIGI 2019 Global Report: Transforming Challenges into Opportunities, Social Institutions and Gender Index*, OECD Publishing, Paris. <https://doi.org/10.1787/bc56d212-en>

GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE APPROACHES

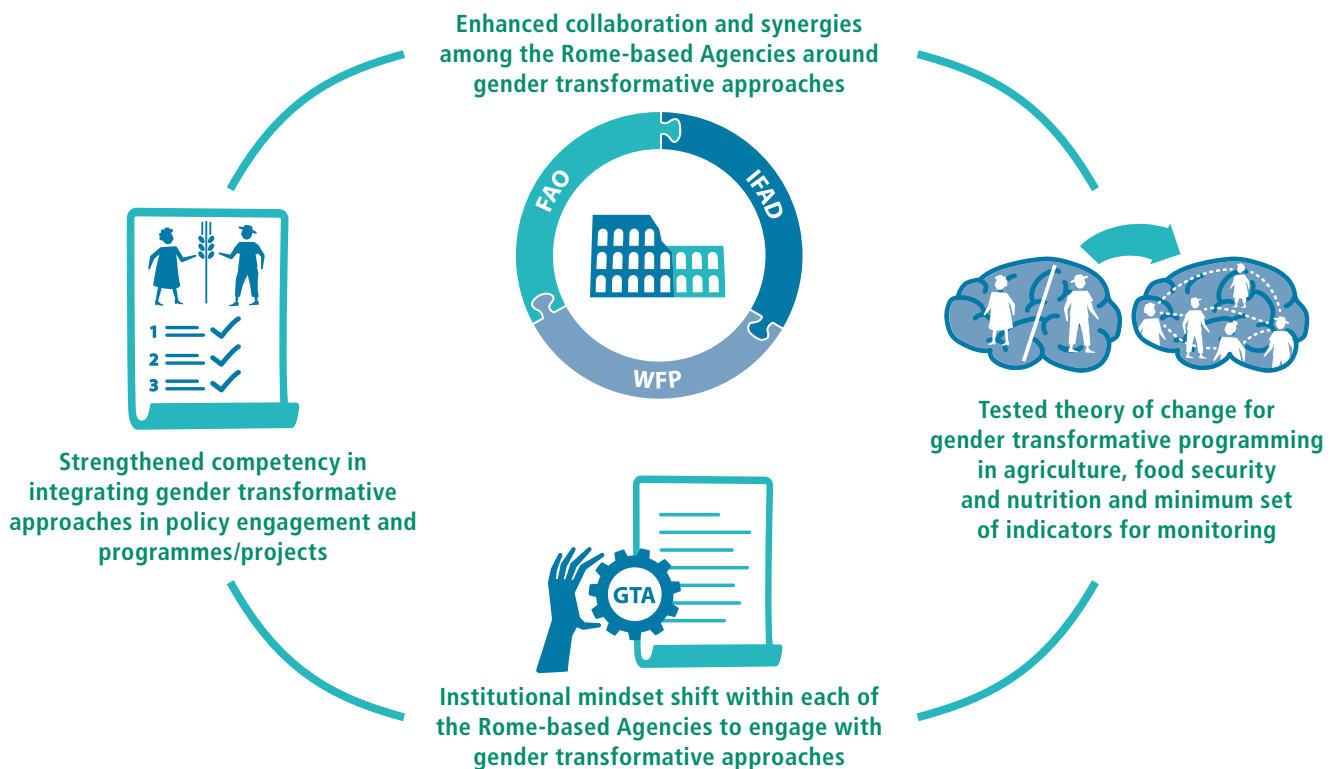
- seek to remove structural barriers to gender equality and challenge the distribution of resources and allocation of roles and responsibilities between men and women;
- help understand, reflect on, challenge and change rigid gender norms and roles, unequal power dynamics and discriminatory social structures;
- aim to foster more equitable gender relations within households, communities and organizations and improve the position of women in society;
- facilitate dialogue, trust and behavioural change at multiple levels (individual, household, community, systems/ institutions);
- use participatory and experiential learning methodologies;
- recognize that women often experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination; and
- explicitly engage with men and boys as allies for change and advocates for gender equality.

MAIN OBJECTIVE



The JP GTA aims to contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 2 (Zero Hunger) by addressing the root causes of gender inequalities. It seeks to support the Rome-based Agencies to embed gender transformative approaches in their policy dialogues, programmes, working modalities and institutional culture and enhance their collaboration on zero hunger and gender equality.

EXPECTED RESULTS



KEY COMPONENTS

To help achieve its main objective and expected results, the JP GTA...

1 ...generates knowledge by:

- developing guidance materials to inform gender transformative programming

2 ...conducts field testing by:

- implementing activities in Ecuador and Malawi to pilot the JP GTA theory of change, trigger transformational change processes and improve FAO-IFAD-WFP collaboration

3 ...shares learnings and develops capacity by:

- enhancing the capacity and awareness of the Rome-based Agencies' employees and other stakeholders to apply gender transformative approaches
- building partnerships and a community of practice

4 ...and engages at the institutional and policy level by:

- garnering buy-in for gender transformative approaches from senior management
- supporting change in institutional mechanisms and culture
- supporting policy processes and global dialogues

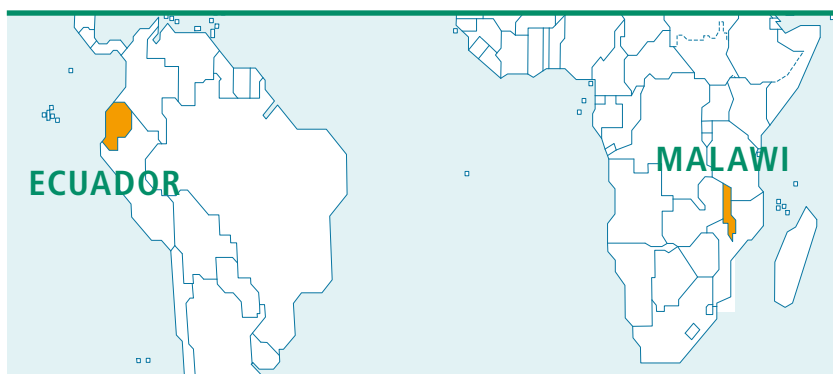
Focus countries: Ecuador and Malawi

In Malawi, the JP GTA aims to enhance the economic autonomy of women and youth through improved financial inclusion. In Ecuador, the Programme is working to reduce gender barriers and gaps in family farming and across the value chain, by strengthening rural women's productive capacities and access to services and markets.

The Rome-based Agencies seek to achieve these results by supporting national and local government institutions, producer organizations and service providers, as well as households and communities.

In both countries, the JP GTA will help the Rome-based Agencies and their partners improve their capacities to address the root causes of gender inequalities by using gender transformative approaches in their programmes, and enhance their collaboration and synergies.

Lessons from the two countries will also enhance learning at the global level about what works for gender transformative programming, feeding into the JP GTA's theory of change as well as the project portfolios of the Rome-based Agencies.



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Source: UN Geospatial. 2021. Stylized map of the world. Washington, DC., UN.
<https://www.un.org/geospatial/file/3600/download?token=EmdkLyun>. Modified by authors.

The **Joint Programme on Gender Transformative Approaches for Food Security, Improved Nutrition and Sustainable Agriculture (JP GTA)** is implemented by FAO, IFAD and WFP and funded by the European Union. For more information, contact:

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European Union



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THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND THE ROME-BASED AGENCIES

Achieving food security and nutrition, reducing poverty and hunger, and promoting sustainable agricultural and rural development – in line with SDG2 – are central to the mandates of the Rome-based Agencies.

Tackling poverty and hunger goes hand-in-hand with SDG5 (Gender Equality) on promoting gender equality and empowering women and girls in their households, communities and society at large. The Rome-based Agencies recognize the crucial need to address the structural constraints faced by women and girls in order to realize their respective mandates and deliver on SDG2.

**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**