

Uwintije Goretti

Ms Goretti joined the Joint Programme on Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women (JP RWEE, jointly implemented by FAO, IFAD, UN Women and WFP) in 2016, as she was a widowed mother of four and was living in poverty. RWEE developed her leadership skills, enhanced her self-confidence, built her capacity in business development, and supported her access to economic opportunities and income generation, enabling her to reach her potential as a rural farmer. Through RWEE, Ms Goretti has been able to respond to her household needs, pay for her children to receive an education, ensure that her family has a nutritiously diverse diet, and also purchase health insurance for family members, among other advantages.

Participating in the RWEE enabled Ms Goretti to join a women's cooperative "**Twaguke Murama**" that is now comprised of 47 members (42 women and 5 men). This cooperative was formed in 2018 under the RWEE and Ms Goretti is currently the president of the cooperative.

Ms Goretti now has a kitchen garden that responds to household food security and nutrition needs, she is a member of a savings and lending group (VSLA), she has a micro business in vegetable production, she is now a member of a microfinance institution (SACCO) where she is able to save and even secure micro-loans to re-invest in her business. All of these factors have contributed to her economic empowerment and supported her to build resilience.

Through the cooperative, Ms Goretti is also engaged in other activities such as maize farming. The cooperative is now able to sell their products to local schools through a home-grown school feeding initiative, providing a reliable and sustainable income source