



Global Donor Platform
for Rural Development

MINUTES TWG RURAL YOUTH EMPLOYMENT CALL

DATE: 9 DECEMBER 2021

PARTICIPANTS

- Anna Befus, FAO
 - Cyriaque Hakazimana, YARA
 - Elisenda Estruch Puertas, ILO
 - Emma Federica, IFAD
 - *Moderator:* Frank Bertelmann, GIZ,
 - Innocent Antoine Houedji, YILAA
 - Jane Lowicki-Zucca, USAID
 - Ji-Yeun Rim, OECD
 - Nick Goetschalckx, EU
 - Peter Wobst, FAO
 - Sven Braulik, GIZ
- GDPRD Secretariat
- Maurizio Navarra
 - Michelle Tang
 - Alessandro Cordova
 - Lise Saga

AGENDA

Issue	Item	Details
1.	Welcome and Introduction	Frank/GIZ
2.	Update from Secretariat	GDPRD Secretariat
3.	AGA 2022	Frank/GIZ
4.	CFS Youth engagement and employment policy convergence process	Frank/GIZ/All
5.	Miscellaneous	All
6.	Looking back and ahead 2021/2022	Sven/GIZ/All
7.	Wrap-up and closing	Frank/GIZ

KEY HIGHLIGHTS/ISSUES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Innocent Antoine Houedji from [Youth Initiative for Land in Africa](#) (YILAA) joined the call for the first time.

2. UPDATE FROM SECRETARIAT

- GDPRD's aim for 2022 is to develop and propose a post-Food System Summit action agenda, while also linking back to the SDGs and Agenda 2030. In 2022, the GDPRD will be promoting a conversation on national pathways and coordination of donor communities at national levels.
- The Annual General Assembly (AGA) will take place on 7 and 8 March. A concept note will be presented to the board on 16 December and will be distributed afterwards.
 - The AGA will be a hybrid assembly (partly in person and partly virtual), where Chairs of the TWGs will be invited to participate in person.
 - The theme of the AGA is "Accelerating progress on the SDGs: Implementing national pathways for food systems transformation and optimizing the catalytic role of donors."
 - The TWGs have been asked to hold specific sessions on their topics.
- The development of a White Paper on donor coordination is progressing, and the co-chairs of TWG RYE have been interviewed.
 - The aim of the White Paper is to propose recommendations for donor community engagement to develop pathways for food systems transformation.
- The co-chairs of the TWGs have been invited to the board meeting in March to update the board on the achievements and aims of the working groups.
- 14 December, the GDPRD is organizing a Donor Roundtable on 'Supporting Country Level Food System Transformation Pathways'.
- This is the first in a series of roundtables, which will target different audiences. The Secretariat welcomes the TWG to take part in future roundtables.
- A final call was made to provide inputs on the mapping exercises before the end of this year. The Secretariat requested members to provide links to general information about rural youth employment from websites of the member organizations, which will become input for a knowledge hub on the GDPRD website.

3. AGA 2022

- The TWG has been asked to organize a session at the AGA in March. The format of the session must be tailored to the hybrid mode and a time slot of 90 minutes, running in parallel with the session of the TWG on Land Governance.
- First suggestions for topics for the session were collected:
 - Donor coordination in youth employment linking to the Food Systems Summit and the approach on climate change and green jobs.
 - How donors can support local food systems stimulation to create jobs for youth and develop local, domestic markets to boost agri-food industry (OECD recently launched a report on the role of local food economies -[see the report here](#))

- National-level pathways and food systems transformation, with a focus on policy innovation for youth access to land.
- Young women in rural economies in agro-food systems
- Child labour in agriculture, emphasizing 15–17-year-olds and hazardous child labour (which would be a timely session, given that 2021 is the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour, which leads into next year’s Fifth Global Conference on Child Labour)
- The co-chairs will develop a consolidated suggestion for the AGA based on the suggestions made, to be discussed in the next call on 20 January and submitted to the Secretariat by the end of January.

4. CFS YOUTH POLICY CONVERGENCE PROCESS

- The open-ended working group on the policy convergence process on youth engagement and employment will produce a zero draft of the policy recommendations for January. Read the meeting report [here](#) and the workplan for the working group [here](#).
- The TWG could develop a consolidated position of the group to submit to the CFS process. The opportunity for the TWG to engage in a policy process that is highly relevant to our focus areas should be taken, to give technical inputs that can strengthen the document.
- It was iterated how the CFS process is highly political, and the end-result will depend on compromises between the member states. The operationalization of the policy recommendations is therefore also a highly important process for external stakeholders such as the TWG.
- The importance of including youth in the policy process was emphasized. The group could take a role in ensuring participation of youth.

5. MISCELLANEOUS

UN FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT

- A suggestion was made to frame the follow-up to the Food Systems Summit outcomes as a topic for a conference or event in 2022.
 - The national pathways at a country level will be a good entry point for the follow-up process.

COALITION FOR YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND EMPLOYMENT

- There is an on-going process of establishing a youth coalition for the Summit, and USAID and International Organization of Employers (IOE) is working to find pathways for funds to initiate a mapping of existing coalitions. ToRs will be developed for the potential coalition and will be circulated in the TWG.
 - An area of consideration for a potential coalition is to apply a climate lens to donor coordination, and how rural youth employment relates to climate change approaches. An important question is how our actions on climate adaptation serve the creation of more and better jobs for youth in agriculture, food systems and water systems.
- USAID is developing a paper on Green Jobs for Youth. FAO has a sub-team working on Green Jobs for Rural Youth and would be happy to contribute to the paper. IFAD had a side-event during COP26 on [youth and green jobs](#). OECD started a project on [green jobs in SE Asia](#). ILO would also be

interested in joining a discussion on green jobs, green economy and a just transition.

- The first stakeholder meeting in the coalition on *Decent Work and Living Income and Wages* took place last Friday. The aim of the coalition is to ensure economic and social justice and the right to adequate and nutritious food for all. They presented their priorities and governance structure and are still calling for engagement and commitment by other governments and stakeholders. The TWG could explore the possibility of engagement to strengthen the focus on youth engagement and employment in agri-food systems in the coalition.

6. LOOKING BACK AND AHEAD 2021/2022

- The activities and **achievements of the TWG from 2021** were presented. The reasons why we engage, and the strategic direction was revisited in the beginning of the year by developing a work plan.
 - 7 regular meetings have been held this year.
 - The webpage of the TWG has been revamped.
 - The most prominent process for the TWG was the food system summit, with the organization of an independent dialogue on African youth as drivers for decent job creation in sustainable food systems. The engagement with game changing solutions that were submitted to the Summit-process led to an exchange with the youth network of Nourishing Africa. A first concept for a coalition on Boosting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agri-Food Systems was drafted and submitted to the Action Track 4 leadership.
 - The TWG has organized webinars on 'Structural social transformation pathways' and a joint event with the Global Donor Working Group on Land (GDWGL) on 'Youth Access to Land' at the LandHub Conference.
- For an **outlook on the new year**, the group will continue to follow the outcomes of the Food System Summit, the CFS policy convergence process on youth engagement and employment and the development of the white paper.
 - The TWG will engage in an anticipated study of OECD on M&E of the G20 Initiative.
 - On donor engagement and coordination, the TWG will reach out to other platform members and donors, as well as youth networks and organizations.
 - Continued cooperation with the GDWGL.
- Suggestions for topics and processes for the workplan of 2022 can be provided to Sven before the call on 20 January. Suggestions presented at the meeting:
 - Green jobs and links to climate change
 - Create of a knowledge hub and attempt to package available resources from members on the website to make available to a broader audience.
 - Engage other donor countries in the working group.
 - Begin the calls with a technical discussion with an input/presentation and a substantial technical/topical discussion of 15-20 minutes.

- Bring in donors/resource partners to present their objectives, priorities, and reflections, to join forces between technical stakeholders and the financing and implementation stakeholders.

7. WRAP-UP AND CLOSING

The co-chairs together with the secretariat expressed their gratitude to all the members for the excellent engagement during the year which brought the TWG a big step forward.

With both continuing processes as well as new topics the co-chairs are looking forward to the collaborations in the new year and wishes everyone a festive holiday season, a good start into the new year and all the best for a healthy and successful 2022.

SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

Agenda item/Issue	Action	Timeline	Responsible Person(s)
2	Share a work plan for 2022	For 20 January call	Co-chairs
2	Circulate AGA concept note	TBD	Secretariat
2	Provide inputs on the mapping exercises	By end of year	All members
2	Provide general links to information about Rural Youth Employment from own websites	ASAP	All members
3	Consolidate suggestions for AGA session	For 20 January call	TWG Co-chairs
3	Share concept note for AGA session with the Secretariat	By end of January	Co-chairs
6	Provide ideas and suggestions for 2022 workplan to Sven	For 20 January call	All members