



Global Donor Platform
for Rural Development

MINUTES

MEETING OF THEMATIC WORKING GROUP (TWG) CO-CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS

SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

PARTICIPANTS

- Conrad Rein, Co-Chair of the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development

Land Governance TWG

- Gemma Betsema - Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO.nl)
- Karol Boudreaux - USAID

SDG 2 Roadmap TWG

- David Hegwood - USAID
- Ammad Bahalim - Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Rural Youth Employment TWG

- Frank Bertelmann - GIZ
- Peter Wobst - FAO
- Sven Braulik - GIZ
- Anna Befus - FAO

GDPRD Secretariat

- Maurizio Navarra
- Michelle Tang
- Alessandro Cordova
- Lise Saga
- Petronilla Wandeto

AGENDA

NO.	TIME	AGENDA ITEM	DETAILS
		Getting to know each other	
1	5'	Introduction by the Secretariat and tour de table.	Secretariat
2	15'	Presentation of main highlights of each TWG (each TWG spends 5 mins explaining their area of work, work plan etc.)	Co/Vice-Chairs
		How can we better support each other?	
3	20'	Discussion on the support provided by the Secretariat to the TWGs.	Co/Vice-Chairs
4	15'	Discussion on how the work of the TWGs feeds into the work of the Donor Platform as a whole.	Secretariat
		How do we achieve a results-based approach?	
5	15'	Formulating results-based work programmes.	Secretariat
6	15'	Presenting progress to the GDPRD Board	Secretariat
7	5'	AOB and closing	

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

1. Introduction by the Secretariat and tour de table.

- [Secretariat] Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) are of utmost importance to the Platform. The meeting was called with the following objectives:
 - Getting the chairs and vice-chairs of different TWGs to know each other.
 - See what is working, what is not working.
 - Understand how the support of the secretariat is working so far and how we can make it better.
 - Explore how we can communicate better the work of the TWGs.

2. Presentation of main highlights of each TWG

Global Donor Working Group on Land Governance (GDWGL)

[Karol]

- The GDWGL grew out of the negotiations around the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT) in 2011-2012, which brought together donors to finalize the guidelines. Over time, there was a recognition that it would be useful to coordinate activities across donors for the implementation of the VGGT.
- The TWG's priorities have over the years focussed on different issues, such as the upgrading the status of SDG Indicator 1.4.2.
- The TWG is currently working on conceptualizing a Global Land Governance Report. Linkages between land and climate change will be a priority area under the current TWG leadership.
- The Platform could consider organizing cross-working group webinars on topics of mutual interest.

[Gemma]

- The TWG has a land programme map hosted on the website. Discussions to update it are ongoing.

SDG 2 Roadmap TWG

[David]

- The TWG was set up to accelerate progress towards the achievement of SDG 2.
- It has operated informally. Rather than launching its own initiatives, it has chosen to elevate initiatives that already have some agreement on within the donor community, particularly systemic issues that need more political will and funding.
- Its biggest successes so far are the CERES 2030 Report and the launch of the 50x2030 Initiative, to improve data availability on SDG 2.
- More recently, the group has provided an avenue to discuss the secondary impacts of Covid-19 on food and nutrition security.
- Current interests include the SDG 2 institutional architecture and follow up on the outcomes of the upcoming UN Food Systems Summit (FSS).

[Ammad]

- The inspiration for the TWG's constitution and past initiatives has been the insufficiency of the data needed at the country level on SDG 2 indicators.

- The working group came together to address the technical and financial gaps behind this issue. This led to the 50x2030 whose goal was to implement two (2) surveys in fifty (50) countries by 2030.
- The CERES 2030 initiative built on this by pooling expert consensus on what is needed to achieve SDG 2.
- The current focus has shifted to the broader agricultural development architecture, where the key question is whether the current system is fit for purpose to achieve the needed SDG 2 outcomes. A number of research papers have been commissioned to explore the existing analytical and political gap in the institutional architecture.

Rural Youth Employment TWG

[Frank]

- The TWG was set up in 2018 after the GDPRD Annual General Assembly (AGA) and as a response to the G20 Initiative on Rural Youth Employment in 2017. After a difficult start, it has since grown to include a variety of partners such as donor organizations as well as research, civil society and youth associations and especially the African Union Commission.
- The focus has been knowledge exchange, networking among members and non-members, as well as linking to policy processes such as the UNFSS, the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and the G20-RYE Initiative.
- There are significant potential synergies with the other TWGs, given the centrality of land tenure and SDG 2 to youth employment.

[Peter]

- The TWG is in a position where it is finding its space, given that rural youth employment has not been historically prioritized in the (rural) development agenda. This is gradually changing as it becomes more evident among governments and donors that rural youth in Africa lies at the centre of the development agenda.
- This position prompts the question on whether the TWG needs instruments, such as the VGGT, that have provided a legitimate anchor to the other TWGs on the Platform.

[Sven]

- In addition to the organization of webinars and regular meetings, the TWG is working to collect best practices i.e. experiences, tools and approaches that have proven to work.
- There is also an ongoing stocktaking exercise to map out an overview of youth organizations and networks.
- Both exercises will build on and add to the GDPRD "[Compendium: Donor Engagement with Rural Youth](#)" and the publication on "[Insights into Youth Networks](#)".

3. Support provided by the Secretariat to the TWGs.

Historically, the secretariat has supported the TWGs in:

- a. Organizing meetings
- b. Organizing meeting room, catering services
- c. Taking minutes
- d. Administrative support
- e. Finance/contracts
- f. Communications

Do the TWGs feel sufficiently supported so far? What expectations do they have going-forward?

[Karol]

- The Land TWG appreciates the variety of support offered and feels sufficiently supported.
- The facilitation of regular check-ins with other TWGs would be useful going forward.
- Additionally, **linking the different TWGs' sections of the website** could also be a good idea.

[Frank]

- The secretariat's support has been very useful to the Rural Youth Employment TWG, particularly in organizing meetings and increasing coordination among members.
- Having Lise Saga designated to supporting the TWG has also been incredibly helpful.
- **The flow of information between the TWGs and the GDPRD Board could be improved.** Although the board has a much broader focus compared to the TWG, there is often a kind of disconnect in the information flow between the different levels, especially since we are all part of one Platform.

[Peter]

- Due to different constraints around time, coordination or resources, working groups often have a general tendency to fail after a given amount of time.
- The secretariat's roles in providing the stimulus and facilitating coordination at the Rural Youth Employment has been instrumental in the progress that the TWG has made in becoming an active, well-functioning working group.

[David]

- He supports having **regular conversations between the TWGs and the GDPRD Board.**
- The secretariat's role in the SDG 2 Roadmap TWG has been light in the past years. This dynamic is expected to continue as the TWG revives its activities over the coming months.
- We should be more proactive in finding ways of **improving the visibility of the TWGs and the utility of their work within and beyond the donor community.** The Platform's Annual General Assembly (AGA) could be a starting point in improving communication of the TWGs. High-level events on crosscutting issues covering the TWGs could also be explored.

4. How the work of the TWGs feeds into the work of the Donor Platform as a whole.

[Secretariat]

- The frequency of communication to the TWGs on the other Platform activities will increase going forward as more regular cross-TWG meetings take place.
- The Platform recently launched a stocktaking report on [Donor Contributions to Food Systems](#) and a [Donor Declaration of Intent](#) on food systems transformation.
- A white paper will be developed over the coming months based on these reports and the outcomes of the UN FSS. More details on modalities such as special task teams will be communicated in due course.
- We therefore need to have a forward-looking conversation on how to integrate the TWG's topics and substantive outputs into the white paper and the upcoming Annual General Assembly (AGA).

5. Formulating results-based work programmes.

- We need to have a conversation on how the TWGs can move beyond spaces where members share their updates to having more specific deliverables and desired outcomes.
- A results-based approach would make it easier to garner support from other organizations within and beyond the TWGs.
- This would involve the preparation of results-based work programmes.
- The secretariat is ready to support the TWGs in adopting this approach in any way needed.

[Frank]

- We should try to establish a shared understanding of what a results-based structure would mean for each TWG e.g. through a template.

SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS			
AGENDA NO.	ACTION	TIMELINE	RESPONSIBLE
5	Development of results-based work programmes/plans.	February	All TWGs
6	Improve the TWGs communication with and visibility at the GDPRD board. Include chairs in board meetings to present TWG activities.	Ongoing	Secretariat
4	Communicate how the TWGs will be involved in the AGA and production of the white paper.	TBD	Secretariat
5/6	Share a draft template of a results-based work plan.	TBD	Secretariat
5	Create a document / brief thematic landscape of the TWGs coverage within a food systems approach as a starting point in cross-TWG collaboration.	TBD	Secretariat
2	Co-arrange a webinar on land rights for rural youth as a collaboration between TWG RYE and GDWGL.	TBD	Karol, Gemma and Frank, Sven (RYE + GDWGL)
1	Organize periodic meetings (every 5 months) with chairs and vice-chairs of all TWGs.	Next February	Secretariat



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