



Global Donor Platform  
for Rural Development

## MINUTES TWG RURAL YOUTH EMPLOYMENT CALL

DATE: 28 OCTOBER 2021

### PARTICIPANTS

- *Moderator:* Anna Befus, FAO
- Cyriaque Hakizimana, YARA
- Elvis Beytullayev, ILO
- Haile Abebe, AUC
- Jane Lowicki-Zucca, USAID
- Mareike Dreusse, GIZ
- Myline Macabuhay, AFA
- Nick Goetschalckx, EU
- Peter Wobst, FAO
- Sven Braulik, GIZ

### GDPRD Secretariat

- Maurizio Navarra
- Michelle Tang
- Lise Saga

### AGENDA

Issue	Item	Details
1.	Welcome and Introduction	Anna/FAO
2.	Update from Secretariat	GDPRD Secretariat
3.	Work Plan and ongoing activities	Sven/GIZ
4.	In-depth input: UNFSS and Youth Coalition	All
5.	CFS/HLPE	All

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS/ISSUES

#### 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Nick Goetschalckx from the European Commission joined the call for the first time. Mareike Dreusse from GIZ guested the call to support the agenda point on the joint session at the GIZ LandHub conference in December.

## 2. UPDATE FROM THE SECRETARIAT

- For the Food System Summit, the GDPRD contributed with two important deliverables: the [Stocktaking Report](#) on Donor Contributions to the Food Systems and the [Declaration of Intent](#) by the GDPRD Board Members.
- The next step is to build an **action agenda** for the post-Summit to enrich the conversation on food and rural development.
- The development of the **White Paper** has started, and an outline will be circulated soon.
- The idea was to launch a number of selected thematic **task teams** based on the key areas for donor contributions that were identified at the last Annual General Assembly (AGA) and in the Declaration of Intent.
- The next **AGA in March 2022** will be a hybrid meeting with the possibility for in-person participation at IFAD's headquarters in Rome. The Secretariat proposed that the TWG RYE organizes a session for the AGA, which would connect to the post-Summit agenda. A concept note on the AGA will be circulated soon.
- The [new website landing page](#) for the working group was presented. The collaborative effort of the group has led to a finished result which was ready to go live the following day. The development of an additional page for a knowledge hub is in process. This would be a compendium of top two or three links on the subject matter of RYE from each member to share knowledge and existing initiatives.

## 3. WORK PLAN AND ONGOING ACTIVITIES

- There is a new template for the **work plan** of the TWG, which focuses on clear indicators and targets. The amended new work plan will be presented at the end of the year and will also be used for developing the new work plan for 2022.
- The group has an ongoing **mapping exercise for tools** and approaches, which will give an (non-exhaustive) overview of the wealth of experiences within the group on the topic of RYE. This overview could also be used to identify blind spots and knowledge gaps – with a potential aim to commission a consultant to look at these areas.
  - The feedback received so far is a mix of concrete tools, approaches, and projects. More targeted criteria for the tools/approaches/projects that we want to map will be developed, and good examples will be made available for the members.
- The second mapping exercise is a **mapping of youth organizations** that are affiliated to the members of the TWG. The aim is to have an overview of youth organizations that can be included in events and activities of the group.
  - The overview document compiling current inputs on youth organizations will be put up online, for members to have a look and fill out.
- We plan to arrange a webinar on '**The Nexus of Rural Youth Employment and Child Labour in agriculture**'. Feedback from members is still requested, and FAO would like to emphasize the importance of this topic.
  - The aim is to focus on the group of 14–17-year-olds, where children have reached the legal working age. The discussion could focus on dangers of tasks performed by this age group, and the need to break the vicious cycle of unemployment, where prevention of child labour could ensure children's education and healthy development, but also consider the need for experience, training, and intergenerational learning.
  - The draft concept note will be shared with the entire group for feedback and inputs. This webinar is also a great opportunity to connect with colleagues in respective organizations to identify potential inputs for this session.
- There will be a joint session with the thematic working group on Land Governance at the **LandHub Conference** organized by GIZ on 6 December. The idea of a

collaboration came from a meeting between the chairs of the different TWGs of GDPRD, to focus on the cross-cutting issue of youth and access to land.

- Inputs have already been identified, but strong best practice examples of projects on youth and access to land could be suggested to Sven. The session concept note is currently developed further in cooperation with the Land Governance group and will be shared shortly.

#### **4. UNFSS AND YOUTH COALITION**

At the end of September, USAID and the International Organization of Employers organized a brainstorming workshop on the coalition for boosting youth engagement and employment in agri-food systems.

- The discussion centered around the value added of such a coalition and potential focus areas. There were concerns about duplication of coalitions, governance of the coalition and how to prevent siloed efforts towards food systems transformation. Key points were also made on coordination, mobilizing resources, capacity development, policy formulation, implementation, and monitoring.
- The next step is to convene a smaller group, carry out a mapping of the questions that arose from the ad hoc meeting and explore opportunities for funding for the building of a coalition. Advice was given on the process of mapping existing initiatives and identifying someone to do this mapping.
- The UN Food Systems Summit is linked to the SDGs, the Decade of Action and a range of existing commitments and has the potential to create leverage for change. Existing coalitions are looking into the national pathways to see how they can support countries that have a focus on their topic, and a coalition on youth could support countries that have a focus on or mentioning youth engagement and employment in agri-food systems.

#### **5. CFS/HLPE**

[The 49th Session of the Committee on World Food Security \(CFS\)](#) was held virtually from 11 to 14 October 2021. The report by the CFS High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) on promoting youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems was discussed. The project team of High-level Panel of experts presented the conceptual framework and recommendations of the report, highlighting that the collective challenge is to envision new pathways for sustainable food systems with youth leading as agents of change. They detailed the report's policy recommendations in the areas of: providing an enabling environment for youth; securing dignified and rewarding livelihoods; increasing equity and rights to resources; enhancing knowledge, education and skills; and fostering sustainable innovation, while overcoming the digital divide. The policy convergence process is starting to find a consensus and draft Policy Recommendations for presentation and adoption at CFS 50 in October 2022. Peter/FAO gave a short summary of the session on Youth Engagement and Employment where the HLPE report on 'Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems' was presented. After the presentation of the report, the policy convergence process was initiated, and member states made about 20-30 statements. Youth were represented in these contributions through the Private Sector Mechanism, the Civil Society Mechanism and through several member country statements. One important discussion is whether the policy recommendations should be based on the pillars of the HLPE report, which were focused on rights, equity, agency, and recognition.

- A [work plan](#) for the process was developed and currently, CFS stakeholders are sharing written inputs on elements to be included in the zero draft for the policy recommendations. Main questions are:
  - Which priority issues and policy relevant areas should be addressed through the CFS policy convergence process and included in the policy recommendations?

- Do you have any suggestions for CFS meaningful engaging youth constituencies in the policy convergence process?
- The TWG has discussed the opportunity to have a joint lead from the TWG to propose recommendations for the policy convergence process. A suggestion was made to organize an exchange within the group to gather thoughts, ideas, and suggestions, which could be consolidated and submitted into the CFS process by the focal points of the member states that are represented in the advisory group.

## SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

Agenda item/Issue	Action	Timeline	Responsible Person(s)
2	Circulate the outline for the White Paper	TBD	Secretariat
2	Circulate the concept note for the Annual General Assembly 2022	TBD	Secretariat
3	Revise the templates for the mapping exercises and re-share with the group.	ASAP	Sven/GIZ and Lise, GDPRD
3	Share the concept note for the webinar on Child Labour with all TWG members	ASAP	Anna/FAO
3	Share the concept note for the joint LandHub Session	TBD	Sven/GIZ
4	Keep the members in the loop on developments in the mapping of youth coalitions and initiatives	TBD	Jane/USAID
5	Organise a conversation on the CFS policy convergence process to gather recommendations for the member states	November	Co-chairs