



Global Donor Platform
for Rural Development

MINUTES THEMATIC WORKING GROUP ON RURAL YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

DATE: 08 SEPTEMBER 2022

PARTICIPANTS

- Anna Befus, FAO
 - Cyriaque Hakizimana, Young African Researchers in Agriculture
 - Frank Bertelmann, GIZ
 - Nick Goetschalckx, European Commission
 - Peter Wobst, FAO
 - Rahul Antao, IFAD
 - Sven Braulik, GIZ
 - Yessie Meyer, Enabel
- GDPRD Secretariat:**
- Maurizio Navarra
 - Michelle Tang
 - Alessandro Cordova
 - Sierra Berardelli

AGENDA

Issue	Item	Details
1.	Welcome and Introduction	Sven/GIZ
2.	Update from the Secretariat	Maurizio/GDPRD
3.	In-depth Input: European Commission	Nick/EU
4.	Green Jobs Webinar Series	Anna/FAO
5.	Thematic Working Group Activities 2022	Sven/GIZ
6.	Tour de Table	All
7.	Wrap-up and Closing	Sven/GIZ

KEY HIGHLIGHTS/ISSUES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

- A new member, Yessie Meyer, Enabel - Belgian Development Agency, joined the call for the first time.

2. UPDATE FROM THE SECRETARIAT

- The Platform's workstream in the next quarter will focus on country-level coordination, including a stocktaking exercise on activities at the country level, to understand where coordination among donors in food systems and agriculture can be improved.
- A conversation on donor coordination of research needs and asks from donors to IFPRI was held with the SGD2 Working Group. This is very relevant for the donor community and can help donors in their programming and planning. The Secretariat will coordinate regular calls for these conversations. This is a separate workstream to the country-level coordination, but will be complementary due to the need for more and better data for decision making.
- Financing for food system transformation will be another workstream of the Platform in this quarter. The GDPRD will hold a closed Donor Roundtable, "Reshaping Food Systems Financing in a Crisis and Post-Crisis Environment: Driving Donors' Commitments", in September, date TBC.
- A Senior Managers Meeting will be held on 11 October, where emerging challenges, issues, and directions for future strategies of the Platform will be discussed.
- The new website is being finalized, to launch in September/October. The TWG webpage will include a 'Knowledge Hub' containing relevant documents and best practices from members.

Q&A:

What is the added value of country-level engagement and how does it relate to the Platform?

- The Platform strives to encourage better coordination among donors at the global and country levels. The stocktaking exercise can be an advocacy tool by analysing current initiatives and whether or not they are sufficient so that donors can understand where to concentrate their efforts.

3. IN-DEPTH INPUT: EUROPEAN COMMISSION

- An in-depth input was given on concrete examples of youth-focused engagement by the European Commission (EU).
- The EU and 27 Member States published "Council Conclusions" in June 2022, comprising a 4-pillar joint response to the conflict in Ukraine: (i) to increase short-term humanitarian assistance and macroeconomic support; (ii) support sustainable food production and resilience; (iii) promote continuation of food export and import, specifically grain; (iv) encourage multilateralism and coordination among the multiple initiatives created in response to the crisis. When developing this response, the EU encouraged youth positioning in policy guidelines and youth employment approaches to be implemented through programmes in the field.
- The EU has developed a Youth Action Plan to be launched in November 2022, focusing on engaging, connecting, and empowering youth. Furthermore, a Youth

Sounding Board was recently formed, comprising 25 young people from around the world to advise the Commissioner and engage youth in decision making processes formally and informally.

- In 2021, the EU financed a study by the OECD, “Jobs for Rural Youth: The Role of Local Food Economies”, which includes policy guidelines to improve rural youth employment in food systems. The EU has also conducted numerous country-level, value chain analyses to promote women and youth engagement in food systems and value chains.
- The Group requested a separate meeting with Nick to exchange on topics like M&E of employment outcomes and the support to UNFSS coalitions. The co-chairs will coordinate for a date and invite the Group.
- Another in-depth input by the European Commission on the technical and operational side of youth-focused programmes and initiatives is planned for in a future call (Q1 2023).

Q&A:

How is rural youth employment programming reflected in practice with EU delegates?

- The EU has a Multiannual Indicative Programme of priorities decided by EU delegates, national governments, and other partners, reflected in annual action plans and action documents for specific programmes. The Youth Sounding Board plays an important role in reaching youth organizations and youth in rural contexts.

Is there work being done at the country level to connect youth more directly with their governments?

- The Youth Action Plan promotes youth as partners, including youth focal points for decision making. Youth sounding boards are being set up with many delegations which create access to diverse youth and grassroots organizations.

4. GREEN JOBS WEBINAR SERIES

- A preparatory meeting for the next webinar in the series on Green Jobs for Rural Youth was held on Tuesday, 6 September.
- Initial ideas gathered include having input from the ILO on their publication, “Global Employment Trends for Youth 2022”, regarding the green and blue economy. Input from USAID on their forthcoming white paper on green jobs for rural youth and women in agriculture could follow to conceptualize green jobs and the green economy with a youth perspective. Breakout sessions could follow for small group discussions on topics including gender, green transformation, green economy, decent work, academic perspective/monitoring green jobs, TBD.
- Agreement to hold another preparatory meeting for the webinar series, date TBC. The Co-Chairs and Secretariat will follow up with USAID and ILO on their involvement.

5. THEMATIC WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES 2022

- The Group reviewed the 2022 Work Plan progress and what remains for the last quarter of the year. Progress is needed for the following outcome areas:
 - 3.3 – Knowledge Hub on RYE approaches: Once the new GDPRD website is launched, the Group will review the categories and gather content, including best practices and tools and links to members’ programmes and initiatives.

- 1.2 – UNFSS process follow-up – to support existing coalitions and their implementation, and exchange on an overview of national pathway strategies: The Secretariat will introduce the Co-Chairs to Stefanos Fotiou of the Food Systems Coordination Hub to explore possible collaborations with the Group.
- 2.4 – Cooperation with TWG Land Governance: Co-Chairs will follow up with the Chair of the Global Donor Working Group on Land (GDWGL) to explore possible collaborations.
- 4.2 & 4.3 – Youth participation & engagement: The Group will work to identify concrete measures to promote youth participation and engagement in relevant processes to be included in the 2023 work plan.
- 5.1 – Exchange with other thematic platforms and networks: GIZ will reach out to S4YE and WFF to follow up on their engagements with the Group.
- In addition, it was proposed that:
 - The Group will conduct its regular calls every eight weeks in 2023.
 - The co-Chair function should rotate to another Group member in 2023

Q&A:

The CFS 50 and COP27 are upcoming key events. Are there linkages to these events that can keep the global processes in line with the Group’s workstream?

- The events can be a background or framework for the upcoming Green Jobs webinar, including the climate/green jobs agenda relevant to the COP27. Members are encouraged to share their involvement in the coming CFS and COP27 events with the Group via email. The Group may consider participation in these events in 2023, it is now too late to actively participate in the 2022 events.

6. TOUR DE TABLE

WFF: Members are encouraged to register for and share the 2022 World Food Forum Annual Meeting amongst networks. The event will take place from 17-21 October and comprises the WFF Global Youth Forum, the FAO Science and Innovation Forum and the FAO Hand-in-Hand Investment Forum.

7. WRAP-UP AND CLOSING

- The next regular call will take place end of October, exact date and time TBC.

SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

Agenda item	Action	Timeline	Responsible Person(s)
2	Share invitation to the Donor Roundtable on Financing	ASAP	Secretariat
3	Organize a call for technical exchange (M&E, UNFSS coalitions) with Nick/EU	ASAP	Co-Chairs
4	Organize a preparatory call for the Green Jobs webinar	ASAP	Co-Chairs
4	Follow up with USAID and ILO on inputs for the next webinar	ASAP	Co-Chairs/Secretariat

5	Exchange with other thematic platforms and networks on their engagements with the Group	ASAP	Co-Chairs/Secretariat
5	Share your involvement in the CFS and COP27 with the Group	ASAP	All
6	Share WFF Event widely amongst networks	ASAP	All
7	Organize next regular call	October	Co-Chairs