



# Minutes Board Meeting

## Participants

### Board Members

- **Conrad Rein**,  
*European Commission (Co-Chair)*
- **Jan Brix**, *Germany*
- **Manon Bellon**, *France*
- **Ammad Bahalim**, *Gates Foundation*
- **Fabrizio Moscatelli**, *Gates Foundation*
- **Ron Hartman**, *IFAD*
- **Federica de Gaetano**, *Italy*
- **Naomi Sterk**, *The Netherlands*
- **Bruce Campbell**, *Switzerland*
- **Sung Lee**, *United States*

### Guests

- **Patrick McManus**, *Ireland*
- **Carin Smaller**, *Shamba Centre*
- **Oshani Perera**, *Shamba Centre*
- **Francine Picard**, *Shamba Centre*
- **Lysiane Lefebvre**, *Shamba Centre*

### GDPRD Secretariat

- **Maurizio Navarra**
- **Michelle Tang**
- **Alessandro Cordova**
- **Monique Amar**
- **Jim Woodhill**

## Agenda

ISSUE	ITEM (DAY ONE)	DETAILS
1.	Welcome and Introduction	Co-Chairs/Secretariat
2.	Country-Level Donor Coordination Workstream Updates	Jim Woodhill
3.	Workplan and Budget	Secretariat
4.	AGA 2023	Secretariat
ISSUE	ITEM (DAY TWO)	DETAILS
5.	Financing Workstream Updates	Shamba Centre
6.	SDG2 Roadmap TWG and Hesat2030 Updates	TWG SDG2 Co-Chairs
7.	Updates from the Secretariat <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Communications achievements</li><li>- Annual report</li><li>- Recommendations database and food systems architecture database</li><li>- Data event recap and next steps</li></ul>	Secretariat
8.	AOB and closing	Co-Chairs

# Key Highlights/Issues

## 1. Welcome and Introduction

- The new Board member from the Netherlands, Ms Naomi Sterk, was introduced.
- The Board welcomed Patrick McManus from Ireland; in this Board meeting as observer, Ireland will request full Board membership shortly.

## 2. Country-Level Donor Coordination Workstream Updates

### PURPOSE OF SECTION:

*Jim Woodhill, Senior Advisor to the Platform, presented a status update on the country-level donor coordination workstream, which has recently included a number of interviews that will feed into a final planned high-level seminar and report.*

[\[PowerPoint available in Annex I\]](#)

### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Interviews with high-level representatives from international organizations and governments will continue to be conducted. Recent interview highlights include: Hussein Mohammed Bashe, Minister of Agriculture in Tanzania; Zlatan Milišić, UN Resident Coordinator in Tanzania; Juan Echanove, Associate Vice-President of CARE; Marcy Vigoda, SUN Movement Secretariat Director; and Lawrence Haddad, Executive Director of GAIN.
- Some key messages that have arisen from the interviews so far include:
  - Coordination and a food systems approach are crucial, but the coordination mechanisms that stemmed from the UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) and the global food systems agenda are not necessarily effective;
  - While countries often also work in sector silos, there are increasing good examples of national food systems coordination, facilitated by heads of government departments;
  - Donor actions must be in line with country strategies and priorities;
  - Donors and governments must work together on integrated and multi-layer investment plans and models at country level;
  - Data, finance, and policy innovation all offer opportunities
  - for further coordination;
  - Options to pilot or conceptualize some sort of GDPRD country-level collaborative programming could be explored by the Board.
- The original plan following the interviews was to hold a three-part, regionally-focused seminar series this spring; however, country-level response in some regions was insufficient. The revised plan is to hold one high-level, virtual session in June. The interviews and seminars will collate into a report which will feed in the 2023 AGA. The June event will be co-organised by the European Commission. The European Commission will also involve its EU Delegations. Further Board members are welcome to co-organize. **[European Commission, Jim Woodhill]**
- There are varying degrees of internal coordination within governments, both in donor and partner countries. It is valuable to hear country-level perspectives on coordination and alignment, to understand what is and is not working. Some good examples of coordination could potentially be scaled up, including those based on UN mechanisms. **[European Commission, IFAD, Switzerland, United States, Jim Woodhill]**

- Food systems transformation pathways are extremely diverse, and progress on them has been varied. However, it is positive that the concept of food systems is being used to understand that agriculture, health, nutrition, environment, humanitarian, and livelihood agendas must be linked up. *[IFAD, Ireland, Italy, Jim Woodhill]*
- The national food systems transformation pathways do not always get a lot of internal traction, sometimes because they are affected by internal politics, or because other policy framework documents are considered more relevant. *[Ireland, Jim Woodhill]*
- There is interest in a GDPRD pilot project on collaborative programming at country level. The remaining interviews and report, along with a clear plan for such a project would need to be developed before full support is guaranteed. *[European Commission, France, IFAD]*

### 3. Workplan and budget

#### PURPOSE OF SECTION:

*The Platform Secretariat presented the 2022 budget expenditures, the 2023 Workplan and Budget Forecast to the Board, for approval [\[Annex II and III\]](#).*

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The 2023 Workplan is focused on a long-term, results-oriented food systems perspective, as per guidance at the [2022 Senior Managers meeting](#). The Workplan design is very similar to previous years, in that outcome areas are the same. The strategic influencing, knowledge and networking focused areas refer to the Platform's work on the SDG2 agenda, country-level donor coordination, data for food systems transformation, and the new workstream on finance. There are also internal outcomes, such as those related to the Secretariat's delivery capacity and communications.
- The Workplan's focus on outreach refers to both potential new Board members, and to others who do not plan to become Board members but can actively be engaged in other Platform activities. Outreach to potential new members is curated and targeted to each donor and organization. *[Maurizio Navarra]*
- Some members are highly active in the Platform's various workstreams, whereas others are not. It could be useful to broaden membership for more visibility, but could also be better to keep membership limited for more fruitful discussions. A conversation on the target/appropriate size of the Platform may be necessary in the future. *[France, Switzerland]*
- All but two Board members contributions for 2022 have been received, with the remaining two payments actively in progress. Given that travel and in-person meetings were still not fully restored in 2022, much of last year's budget was dedicated to consultancies and communications activities. Notable forecasted expenditures for 2023 include the AGA, Secretariat travel, and consultancies for the country-level coordination and financing workstreams. *[Maurizio Navarra]*

#### ACTION POINTS:

- The Work Plan and Budget for 2023 were both approved.

### 4. AGA 2023

#### PURPOSE OF SECTION:

*The Secretariat presented its proposal for the theme of the 2023 Annual General Assembly (AGA). The idea is to commemorate the GDPRD's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, reflecting on the aid effectiveness agenda and charting donor directions for the future. Logistical details of the AGA were discussed. [\[Preliminary paper available in Annex IV\]](#)*

## ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Given that the GDPRD reaches its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2023, the AGA is the perfect time to look back at the past two decades of the Platform, donor coordination, and the aid effectiveness agenda. This AGA theme will be used to reflect on how useful the aid effectiveness agenda has been, and how today's tools can renovate it into something more valuable. This theme brings together all the active Platform work on the food systems transformation agenda, country-level donor coordination, data, and finance. To inform discussions, a report will be commissioned which will outline the evolution of rural development since 2000, including key food systems indicators.
- The AGA is being proposed for September or October, and could be held in a location other than Rome, should one of the Board members be available to host in their country (costs covered by the Secretariat). The Secretariat welcomes any Board member to join the AGA prep committee, along with the Secretariat and Co-Chairs. **[Monique Amar]**
- Board members are always encouraged to actively participate in shaping the AGA agenda, including by mobilizing speakers from their countries and exercising their convening powers. The AGA should, and will, actively incorporate themes from last year's White Paper. **[Maurizio Navarra, Switzerland]**
- Given busy schedules in September, there is preference for the AGA being held in October. To reduce travel, it could be held alongside the in-person Senior Managers meeting, which is usually in November. **[France, Maurizio Navarra, Switzerland]**

## ACTION POINTS:

- Board members to comment on the AGA theme proposal by Friday, 10 March.
- Secretariat to poll members on their preferred dates for the AGA (October being the preferred option).
- The Secretariat to organize a meeting of the AGA prep committee; Switzerland will join.

## 5. Financing workstream updates

### PURPOSE OF SECTION:

*The Shamba Centre presented updates and clarifications on the upcoming finance workstream, which was proposed at [December's Board meeting](#). The presentation focused on the feedback and comments received from the Board, which were particularly on blended finance. Workstream activities, methodologies, and timelines were discussed. [\[PowerPoint available in Annex VI\]](#)*

### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Board members requested clarification on the definition of blended finance, as well as its additionality. Blended finance refers to the mobilization of private finance to unlock additional, commercial finance that otherwise would not be directed to development activities. The workstream will focus on GDPRD needs, that is, assessing blended finance in terms of innovation, leverage, impact, and returns.
- Activities in this workstream will consist of: (1) investigating donor strategies used to innovate and increase their impact, including integrating food systems into other thematic areas; (2) studying prevailing trends in blended finance; (3) presenting findings to GDPRD stakeholders; and (4) provide recommendations to the GDPRD on the value-added of a sustainable finance workstream.
- The primary methodology for the work will be through formal interviews with a variety of relevant parties (e.g., donors, funds, working groups, hubs). A nine-month implementation plan was presented, showing the timing of activities between April and December 2023.

**[Shamba Centre]**

- Breaking down silos can leverage more money for similar objectives, and should be discussed in this work. For example, with the increasing amount of funds directed at emergency food assistance, it will be important to leverage this finance to better contribute to development. Further, the incentives and risks around blended finance should be assessed. **[France, Shamba Centre, Switzerland]**
- Blended finance could be an important way to support SMEs, and it would be helpful to understand how. As well, IFIs are an important player in this field, and should be included in the proposed interviews. However, there is a risk that the current workstream proposal already has too large of a scope, therefore making it difficult to provide recommendations on such a broad topic. The goal is therefore to start broad and eventually narrow the themes throughout the operationalization of the workstream. **[Shamba Centre, United States]**
- Board members can discuss this topic with both their internal and external colleagues, and introduce them to the Shamba Centre, which will present diverse views to integrate into the workstream. **[European Commission, France, Shamba Centre]**

**ACTION POINTS:**

- Board members to provide the Shamba Centre with introductions to their colleagues working on blended finance.
- Board members with connections in the G20 Sustainable Finance working group are also encouraged to connect Shamba Centre for further interviews and to make sure the G20 is also included.

## 6. Updates on SDG2 Roadmap TWG and Hesat2030

**PURPOSE OF SECTION**

*A brief synopsis of the SDG2 Roadmap TWG's 2022 activities was given. The future of two main initiatives stemming from the TWG, Ceres2030 and 50x2030, were discussed. The convening power and collaborative nature of the TWG was noted and appreciated.*

**ISSUES DISCUSSED**

- In 2022, the TWG convened in the context of the food price crisis, which is having significant impacts on the SDG2 agenda. The TWG also came together to discuss the end phases of two of their co-investments, Ceres2030 and 50x2030.
  - **Ceres2030/Hesat2030:** Some group members have now re-invested in the next phase of the initiative, which will be called Hesat2030. A concept note will be shared shortly and presented at the TWG meeting on 28 February.
  - **50x2030:** With many grants coming to an end, there are current discussions on how to re-invest in the initiative, as well as consideration of the collective donor role in the project. **[Gates Foundation]**
- Sung Lee (USAID) has accepted to continue US' role as Co-Chair of the TWG.

## 7. Updates from the Secretariat

**PURPOSE OF SECTION:**

*The Secretariat updated the Board on recent activities and achievements. Current work on the 2022 Annual Report and Food Systems Architecture Database was described. Recent Platform achievements were outlined, including a thriving communications capacity [\[PowerPoint available in Annex VI\]](#), the finalization of the Recommendations Database, and a successful data event.*

## ISSUES DISCUSSED:

### • **Communications Achievements in 2022.**

- There has been significantly increased engagement on the Platform website, LinkedIn, Twitter, and e-newsletter. Written communications (e.g., the AGA report, the White Paper, meeting minutes) have been revamped for shorter, punchier documents. A corporate toolkit has been developed for all stakeholders to present and share the Platform with others. The thematic working groups all have their own active pages and knowledge hubs on the GDPRD website.
- In 2023, communications efforts will focus on the Platform's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, along with the donor coordination, data, and financing workstreams. Knowledge sharing will be improved through website updates, including a possible new microsite. The Secretariat is looking into developing an Instagram account this year. The Meet Our Members interview series is progressing well, and a short survey will be shared with the Board to elicit feedback on the latest communications updates. **[Michelle Tang]**
- Instagram would be a good channel for the Platform. It could be used to engage with youth, particularly young farmers in Africa, who the Platform should reach out to more. **[European Commission, France, Netherlands]**

### • **Annual Report 2022.** The 2022 Annual Report is under works with a senior writer. Food systems in times of crisis will be the main topic for the report, given how the GDPRD adapted its activities to address the crises. The thematic working groups and White Paper will also be highlighted. It will be a shorter, more innovative report than in past years. **[Michelle Tang]**

### • **Recommendations Database and Food Systems Architecture Database.**

- The [Food Systems Recommendations Database](#) is now fully functional and up-to-date with 49 of the latest global reports. The content of the database is now in a maintenance phase, and technical upgrades are being explored.
- A new Food Systems Architecture Database is now being developed. The interactive, mapping tool will give users a clear idea of how the plethora of food systems-related organizations, initiatives, research groups, platforms, etc. fit together. Each item will be categorized by category, scale, and primary focus. **[Alessandro Cordova]**

### • **Data Event Recap and Next Steps.** The GDPRD co-organized an event with the EU, IFAD, and GPSDD on 13 February, titled "[Assessing the Data Quantum Leap in Agriculture and Food Systems: Consultations for New Strategic Directions](#)". Approximately 90 people attended, both virtually and in-person. A high-level panel opened the session, thirteen data initiatives presented their work, and closing sessions took a final look at past progress and future directions. There was a strong call for the GDPRD to continue working on donor coordination in data, and a concrete proposal will be put forward to the Board in due time.

- Key messages from the event included: (1) the data revolution worked in making data collection cheaper and faster; (2) better coordination is necessary among donors and international organizations; (3) data must be better used by policy- and decision-makers; and (4) data produced by public institutions must remain relevant to avoid making private sector data the norm. **[Maurizio Navarra]**

## 8. AOB and closing

- The School Meals Coalition will have its first international meeting this fall; France is actively involved in this coalition, and is happy to share information and/or materials with other Board members. The Nutrition for Growth summit is being planned for 2024 or 2025. **[France]**
- The FARM (Food and Agriculture Resilience Mission) initiative aims to improve coordination

between donors and farmers, to scale up projects which focus on value chains and national food sovereignty. A FARM secretariat is currently being established at IFAD with France's support, and an international, multilateral advisory committee will be established. The initiative is moving quickly to action, with one project already being funded in Cameroon.

**[France, IFAD]** [\[Information sheet available in Annex VIII\]](#)

# Donor Coordination Workstream

## Progress Update

Jim Woodhill  
Mandakini Surie

21 February



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# Update

- Past literature and reports reviewed
- Concept notes and background paper drafted
- First Seminar held
- Interviews with board members
- Additional interviews held eg
  - Minister and UN rep Tanzania
  - Head of Gain and Sun
  - Care head of agriculture
- Initiatives data base underway
  - 80+ key initiatives catalogued
- Doing more country-level interviews
- Planning high-level event



## Key Messages from Interviews (1)

- Mixed reaction to the language of food systems and to the Food Systems Summit – “global agenda not yet filtering down”
- However, need for a food systems approach seen as critical
- In current context need for improved coordination universally seen as essential
- Many different coordination mechanisms but operating with varying levels of effectiveness
- At country level coordination is often “show and tell” rather than integrating programming



## Key Messages from Interviews (2)

- Whatever donors do must be country driven and in response to country strategies and priorities
- However countries themselves (like donors) struggle to break out of sector silos
- Increasing examples of food systems / security being coordinated by head of government departments
- UN coordination role is taking effect with mor RBA coordination
- Scope for donor and multi-laterals to work with partner governments to develop “integrated investment plans”



## Key Messages from Interviews (3)

- Need to understand multi-layered investment models at country levels
  - Budget support
  - Joint country programming
  - Bilateral projects
  - Globally funded initiatives working at country level (SUN, GAIN, GAFSP)
  - International NGOs
  - Development banks
  - Private sector
- Linking bilateral donor programming to development banks is important
- The proliferation of initiatives is extreme – at some point things just need to end!
- Very positive reactions to the GDPRD and this work



# Coordination Across Thematic Areas

- DATA
- Finance
- Policy Innovation



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# Opportunities for GDPRD

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- Piloting “collaborative programming” at country level, strategic perspective on:
  - What are country needs?
  - Who is currently doing what?
  - Where are the gaps and duplications?
  - What could be a more linked up medium-term investment plan
- High-level meeting
  - Virtual (June)
  - Face to Face (linked to stocktaking or later in year)
  - Both



# Thank you

**Jim Woodhill and Mandakini Surie**

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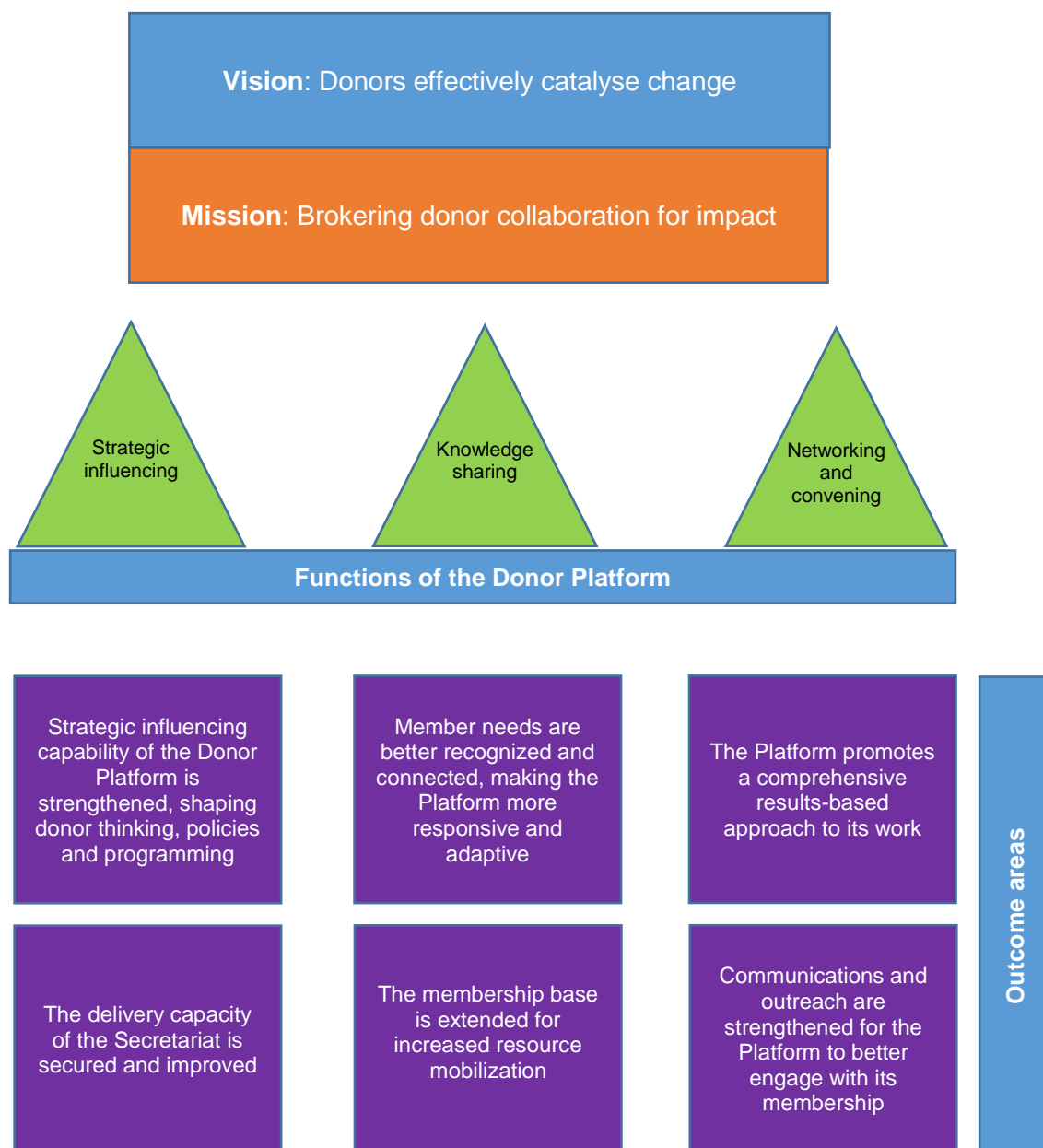


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## Global Donor Platform for Rural Development

### 2023 Work Plan



2



ID	Outcome area	Outputs	Activities	Indicators	Targets
2	Member needs are better recognized and connected, making the Platform more responsive and adaptive	2.1. Work planning process	Initiation of a work planning process at the start of the Plan period, to be revisited on an annual basis	Work plan developed and presented through member consultations	1 work plan
		2.2. Share and publicize members' events, activities, perspectives, and expertise	Newsletters, 2022 Annual report, social media and communications tools	Communication products developed  Annual Report produced and shared	At least 4 newsletters (E-updates) sent (number to be increased based on communications plan)  Social media posts on LinkedIn and Twitter 2022 Annual Report
		2.3 Commission short pieces of timely research on emerging topics of member interest	Knowledge products are produced on an ad hoc basis	Knowledge products	(ad hoc)
		2.4. Host thematic working groups	Thematic Working Groups on Land Governance, SDG2 Roadmap, Rural Youth Employment  Organize periodic exchanges between TWGs and Board and across TWGs	Meetings of the Thematic Working Groups  TWGs presentations at Board meetings Meeting between TWG chairs	At least three meetings per Working Group (one of which to be a hybrid meeting)  Board meeting with TWG presentations At least one meeting between TWG chairs
3	The Platform promotes a comprehensive	3.1. Develop Platform results-based workplans	Identifying needs of members, annual priorities, and results to be achieved and designing activities accordingly	Work plan	1 work plan



ID	Outcome area	Outputs	Activities	Indicators	Targets
	results-based approach to its work		Thematic Working Groups develop plans which align with and contribute to the overall Platform workplan	Working Group dedicated work plans	3 work plans of Thematic Working Groups
4	The delivery capacity of the Secretariat is secured and improved	4.1. Ensure sustainable financing to fully staff the Secretariat	Maintain funding for Coordinator, Communications Coordinator, Assistant	Positions secured	3 staff members Secretariat is fully staffed
		4.2. Hire additional resources for supporting the Secretariat	Recruit special consultants, advisors, interns on a needs basis	Senior policy advisor hired Junior consultant hired to support the Secretariat  1 Intern to support the data entry work on the Recommendations Database	1 Senior Consultant  1 Junior Consultant hired  1 Intern hired
5	The membership base is extended for increased resource mobilization	5.1. Increase the number of donors engaged	Increase outreach to existing members and target selected ones for resource mobilization	New members identified and mobilized	At least one new member mobilized
6	Communications and outreach are strengthened for the Platform to better engage with its membership	6.1. Implement and keep up to date the communication strategy	Keep the communication strategy up to date by analyzing needs and priorities; implement the provisions	Up-to-date communication strategy and communications action plan for 2023	1 strategy with updates as needed 1 communications action plan for 2023
			Strengthen networking, relationships and knowledge exchange amongst donors and partners	Board, member and partner interviews and podcasts	8 interviews and podcasts with board, members and partners



ID	Outcome area	Outputs	Activities	Indicators	Targets
				Web articles	4 web articles and op-eds
			Maintain and improve the Donor Platform website with expanded Recommendations Database and upgraded content management system Apply new Platform visual identity to all communications products Observe the 20 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Platform	Up-to-date and more user-friendly website with fully integrated Recommendations Database Visual identity applied to communications products 20 <sup>th</sup> anniversary reflection key messages	1 website with WordPress upgrades and 1 Recommendations Database microsite 1 corporate communications toolkit 1 report on 20 years of donor coordination and the Aid Effectiveness Agenda
			Review modalities for outreach and influencing, including social media, feedback surveys, podcasts etc.	Updated outreach and influencing modalities	1 member survey on communications 10% increase in social media activity and followers Communications action plan fulfilled



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## **Global Donor Platform for Rural Development**

**Budget status report, as of 31 January 2023**

Includes:

1. Donor contributions (as of 31 December 2022)
2. 2022 Budget utilization
3. 2023 Budget forecast

# 2022 Contributions

As of 31 December 2022

ID	Donor	Institution	Net contribution received (EUR)
1	<b>Australia</b>	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	€ 46 000.00
2	<b>Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation</b>	-	€ 55 007.47
3	<b>European Union</b>	European Commission	€ 46 000.00
4	<b>Finland</b>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	€ 46 000.00
5	<b>France</b>	Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs	€ 46 000.00
6	<b>Germany</b>	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) on behalf of Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ)	€ 49 601.80
7	<b>IFAD</b>	Global Engagement, Partnership and Resource Mobilization Division	€ 50 000.00
8	<b>Italy</b>	Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale	€ 46 000.00
9	<b>Netherlands</b>	Ministry of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation	€ -
10	<b>Switzerland</b>	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation	€ 46 000.00
11	<b>United Kingdom*</b>	Foreign, Commonwealth Development Office	€ 52 755.37
12	<b>United States</b>	United States Agency for International Development	€ -
<b>Total net contributions received</b>			<b>€ 483 364.64</b>

\*\* Amount in EUR based on official UN exchange rate (1 GBP = 0.842 USD) as of July 2022

Even though the Netherlands and the United States did not provide their 2022 membership by December 2022, both members have made arrangements for covering outstanding amounts in January 2023.

# Budget Utilization

2022 aggregated expenses, by category

As of 31 December 2022

Category	Amount
Staff costs (includes internships)	€ 364 437.71
Consultancies	€ 147 954.01
AGA-related expenses	€ 29 520.00
Other event-related expenses	€ 4 527.72
Communication	€ 35 452.16
IT/Admin	€ 27 638.50
Miscellaneous	€ 1 682.08
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>€ 611 212.19</b>

## 2023 Budget forecast

This 2023 provisional budget forecast was drafted under the assumption that contributions from all the Board members will be received by 31 December 2023.

The total forecast includes all core expenses by the Platform Secretariat, but does not include special funds allocated by Platform members in support of thematic working groups or thematic areas.

ID	Description	Amount
	<b>Staff costs*</b>	
1	Coordinator	€ 173 715
2	Communication officer	€ 119 253
3	Admin Assistant	€ 57 279
4	Internships	€ 9 600
	<b>Consultancies</b>	
5	Consultant(s), Secretariat and TWGs support	€ 20 000
6	Consultant, AGA moderation	€ 10 000
7	Consultant, country-level donor coordination workstream	€ 40 000
8	Consultant, innovative finance workstream	€ 80 000
	<b>Admin costs</b>	
9	AGA 2023	€ 40 000
10	Website management, e-newsletters, social media	€ 30 000
	<b>Events costs</b>	
11	Events	€ 10 000
	<b>Travel</b>	
12	Staff Travel	€ 10 000
13	Travel for consultants and guests	€ 5 000
<b>Total 2023 forecast</b>		<b>€ 604 847</b>

\* The amounts are based on IFAD standard staff costs as of Jan 2023



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## PROPOSAL FOR GDPRD'S 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

# "Aid Effectiveness, Rural Development and Donor Coordination, Two Decades Later"

September 2023

At the 2002 European Forum on Rural Development Cooperation, governments agreed that aid could be more effective with enhanced donor coordination. In light of this aspiration, a "Global Forum for Rural Development" was proposed as one possible pathway. The Global Donor Platform for Rural Development was launched the next year, and has worked continuously for two decades to increase donor coordination and improve rural development strategies and outcomes. Since then, aid effectiveness has taken centre stage at major OECD conferences in Rome (2003), Paris (2005), Accra (2008) and Busan (2011).

Over the past two decades, there have been major advances in rural development; with momentum toward the 2015 Millennium Development Goals and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, pre-pandemic global poverty rates had been cut by more than half since 2000. Despite this, hunger has largely remained persistent for more than eight hundred million people due to slowing progress and an escalating number and severity of global crises in recent years. It is therefore time for the donor community to come together and take stock of the past 20 years, re-examining the aid effectiveness agenda and forging a sustainable path for the future. **The AGA will thus ask, discuss and seek to answer the following questions:**

- Has the aid effectiveness agenda been achieved? Abandoned? Is it still relevant in 2023?
- In the past two decades, which rural development issues remain persistent and enduring, and what new challenges have arisen?
- How have donors changed their activities in recent years, and how can they better transform them for the future? (e.g., innovative financing mechanisms, new technologies, novel partnerships)
- How can donors ensure that forward-looking strategies and proposals from global fora, such as the Food Systems Summit, progress from theory to reality?
- In the face of novel global crises, how can the GDPRD help donors coordinate both their emergency responses and long-term development strategies?



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The Global Donor Platform is committed to helping donors effectively catalyse change through investments in rural communities, the development of agriculture and the transformation of food systems. To accurately assess past progress and chart future directions, the Platform will commission an analysis on these issues. The analysis will outline the evolution of rural development since 2000, including indicators such as poverty levels, food insecurity figures and rural inequalities. This will provide a coherent basis for discussing and answering the questions above.

### **SESSIONS OVERVIEW:**

- **High Level Panel:** Aid Effectiveness in 2023 and Beyond
- **Panel:** Financing Food Systems Transformation: Bridging the Investment Gap
- **Panel:** Donor Coordination in Rural Development (details tbd)
- **Session:** Achieving Zero Hunger: Challenges and Opportunities (details tbd)
- **Session:** The Nexus of Food Systems and Rural Youth Employment (details tbd)
- **Session:** The Nexus of Food Systems and Land Governance (details tbd)

# **A conversation on blended finance:**

## **In the context of a potential workstream on sustainable finance at the GDPRD**

**Carin Smaller  
Oshani Perera**





# Potential workstream on finance at GDPRD

The project will focus on:

How can donors increase the effectiveness of ODA?

- How can ODA for food systems link with other ODA thematic areas: climate change, biodiversity, gender, emergency food assistance.
- Should donors engage further on blended finance for sustainable food systems?  
Is blended finance an optimal strategy to increase innovation, impact, leverage, and align goals on risks and returns?
- *This presentation will focus on blended finance ...*



# Blended finance for SDG 2?

## Can blended finance bridge the funding gap to achieve SDG 2?

The debate on blended finance continues ever since 2015, when the Addis Ababa Action Agenda included it as a financing for development strategy.

Research including Ceres2030 states that donors need to invest an additional USD14 billion per year to achieve SDG 2.

Blended finance remains nascent, 56 transactions per year amounting to USD \$10.7 billion, mostly for climate change.



# Proposal on the GDPRD workstream on finance ...

Qs from GDPRD members:

- Can public and private interests be aligned?
- Can donor funds be catalytic in bringing additional private and philanthropic funds?
- What are the transaction costs and the opportunity costs?
- Is blended finance the right vehicle to scale up funding for sustainable food systems?
- Is blended finance sufficiently practical to be implemented in developing countries?
- Does blended finance always deliver risk adjusted returns?
- What is blended finance in the first place? How is it defined?



# Definition of Blended Finance

Addis Ababa Action Agenda (2015) on Financing for Development defines blended finance as:

**“Financing that combines concessional public finance with non-concessional private finance and expertise from the public and private sector ”**



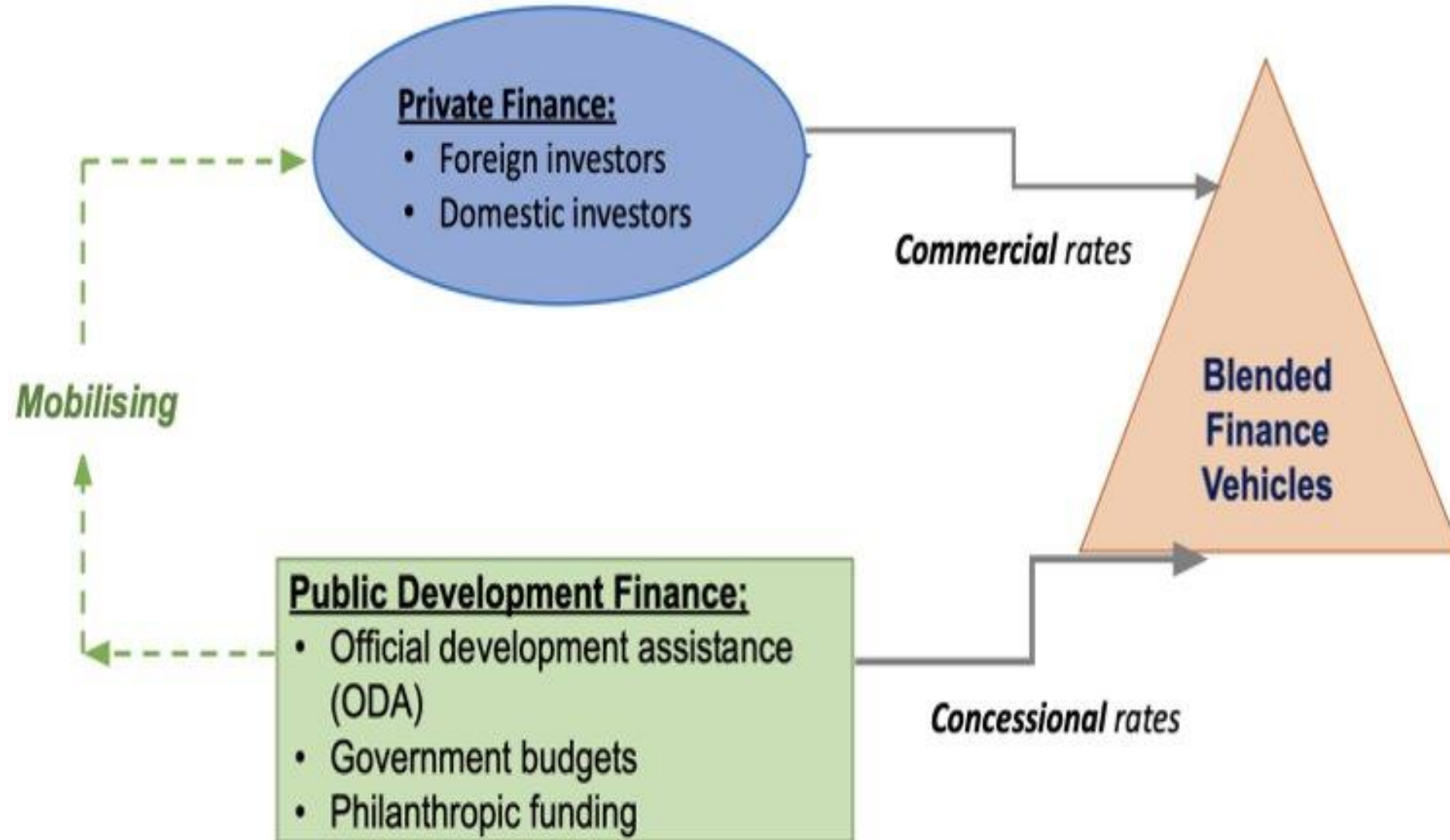
# OECD DAC definition of blended finance

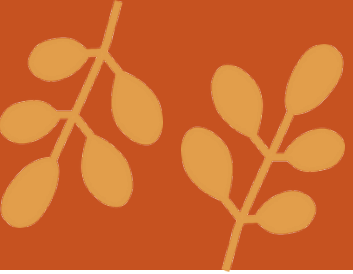
OECD DAC defines blended finance as:

“The strategic use of development finance for the **mobilization of additional finance** towards sustainable development in developing countries, with **‘additional finance’ referring primarily to commercial finance**.

The focus thus lies on the mobilization of commercial finance which is **not currently being directed towards development-related investments**.

# What is blended/innovative finance?





# Project design

**This project is designed to respond to the questions posed by the GDPRD:**

**Innovation:** What is new and noteworthy about blended finance targeting agriculture and food systems?

**Leverage:** Can blended finance be 'additional', bring in funds from private and philanthropic sources that would otherwise not be possible?

**Impact:** Can blended funds help increase food security and nutrition, increase incomes of smaller producers, and curb climate change? Can they reach small producers/SMEs?

**Returns:** Can blended funds in food and agriculture bring the risk adjusted returns?



# Activities

**Activity 1:** Investigate strategies used by donors to innovate, trigger more impact, and make their funding more catalytic.

**Activity 2:** Study prevailing trends in innovative/blended finance.

**Activity 3:** Present findings at stakeholder meetings organised by the GDPRD.

**Activity 4:** Develop recommendations for a GDPRD workstream on sustainable finance



# Activity 1

Interviews and analysis on how donors and philanthropy are working to:

- Innovate, increase impact and make their funding catalytic.
- Intergrade food systems into thematic funds such as **climate, gender, SMEs, biodiversity, emergency food assistance.**



## Activity 2

### **Study state of play in blended finance.**

Market is nascent, in 2021, there were approx. 56 deals = USD 50.6 billion. Over half were climate finance.

### **Interviews with public funds on their blended finance strategy.**

IFAD, Green Climate Fund, Global Environment Facility.

### **Interviews and analysis on the design + performance of blended funds**

Land Degradation Neutrality Fund, Agri Business Capital Fund, Food Security Fund, Nature Accelerator Fund, AGRI-3.

### **Engage with sustainable finance hubs**

G20 Sustainable Finance Working Group, Int Forum of Sovereign Wealth Funds, OECD Blended Finance, Convergence; Int, Development Finance Club; Sustainable Finance Hubs/Networks in donor countries.



## Activity 3 and 4

- **Present findings and trends at GDPRD stakeholder events.**
- **Recommendations to the GDPRD on the value-added of a workstream on sustainable finance.**



# What insight will the project deliver?

- How can donors increase the effectiveness of ODA?
- How can ODA for food systems link with other ODA thematic areas: climate change, biodiversity, gender, emergency food assistance.
- Should donors engage further on blended finance for sustainable food systems?  
Is blended finance an optimal strategy to increase innovation, impact, leverage  
+ additionality and align goals on risks and returns?
- Recommendations on the value-added of a GDPRD workstream on blended finance.

# Duration of the project

## Implementation Plan – April to December 2023

Activity	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
1: Donor Strategies									
2: Blended finance strategies									
3: Stakeholder Events									
4. Recommendations to GDPRs									

Thank you very much



# **GDPRD Communications in 2022**



Global Donor Platform  
for Rural Development



**New  
communications  
approach**

**Readable  
Relatable  
Usable  
Short  
Focused  
Interesting  
Innovative  
Results-driven**

# An Overview

**Communications  
Strategy  
2022-25  
launched**

**Modernized Logo  
+ Visual Identity  
+ Messaging  
+ toolkit**



**New website  
launched in  
September 2022**



**11 interviews  
Meet our  
Members Series**



**6 podcast  
segments with  
8 interviewees**



**AGA  
Roundtables  
Events**



**Knowledge hubs  
and redesigned  
thematic  
working group  
pages**



**6 Web articles  
and op-eds**



**3 Platform  
publications**



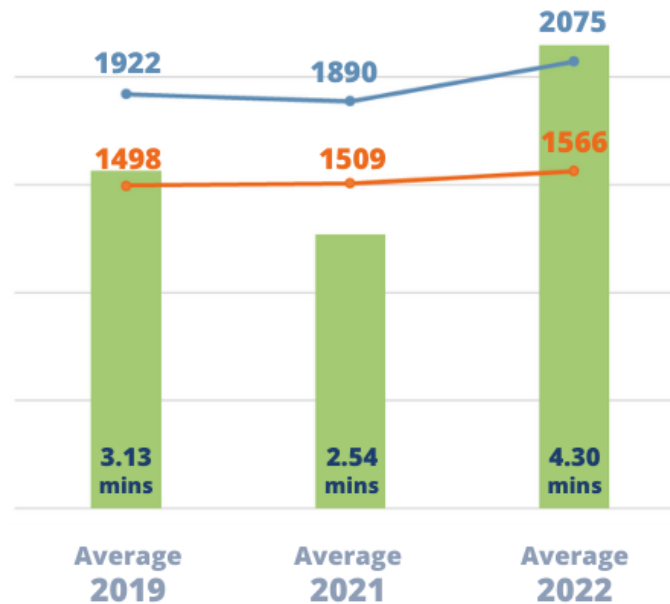
**December  
podcast episode  
dedicated to  
Donor Platform  
voices.**



# Website

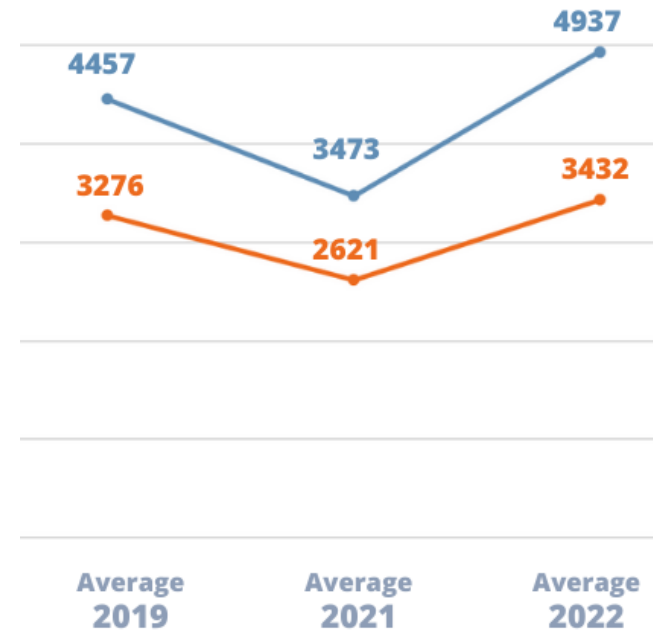
## Site visits

From 2019



## Page views

From 2019



# Social media

## LinkedIn



2,207  
followers  
as of  
today

### Our LinkedIn followers

**Seniority:**

48.2% hold senior positions including Directors, VPs, Managers and Partners

30.5% hold junior positions

**Industry:**

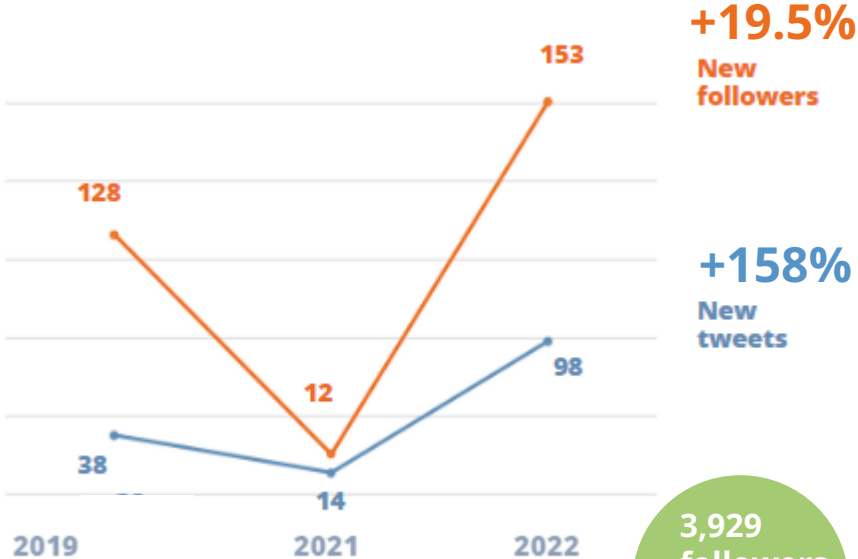
38.2% are from international trade and development, non-profit organizations, international affairs and government, emergency aid

8.9% from research and academia

5.5% from civic and social organizations

3.5% from farming

## Twitter



3,929  
followers  
as of  
today

# Written communications



## KEYNOTES



**Geraldine Mukeshimana**  
Minister of Agriculture (Rwanda)

**"This is not the time to be closing borders to trade in food. Rwanda is investing... our future is in highly productive, high-value agriculture."**

The conflict in Ukraine has raised concerns that we will soon face a food crisis. By disrupting the supply of grains, energy and fertilizer, it threatens a new shock to a global food system already destabilized over the past two years by the COVID-19 pandemic and now by an unprecedented food crisis.

Some states have responded with export controls. This is a mistake that exacerbates the crisis. Rwanda is keeping its trade relations strong and open. We know that there may be a need to import food from our neighbours when production does not meet national needs. This is not the time to be closing borders to trade in food.

Rwanda is also investing in food systems. Our national plan recognizes that our future is in highly productive, high-value agriculture. Rwanda is determined that small-scale farmers should be able to market their crops nationally and internationally. Government is building hard and soft infrastructure to help them succeed.

Rwanda is working with partners, including the WFP and IFAD, but "donors must feed their niche with the country's existing policies and investment plans".



**Claudia Sadoff**  
Director, Research Delivery and Impact (CGIAR)

**"There is now clear global consensus that we need to re-orient the way we produce and consume food."**

Last year was really a turning point. There is now clear global consensus that transformation is needed across land and water systems, that we need to re-orient the way we produce and consume food. This challenge will be central to the COP 27 UN Climate Change Conference to be held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt on 6-18 November 2022. Global food security has become a top foreign policy objective.

But while confronting urgent and immediate crises, we must build long-term resilience against future shocks. The report *Open 2030: Sustainable Solutions to Food Systems* found that donors needed to double their investments. Need and urgency had since been compounded by Russia's assault on Ukraine – "a nightmare that few of us could have predicted or imagined".

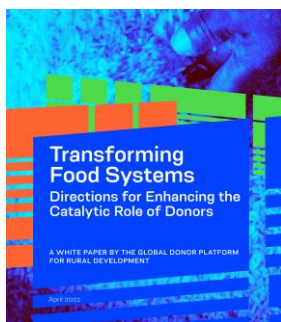
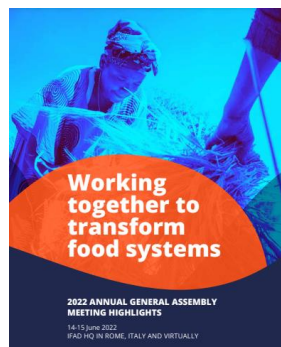
While increased investment is needed in public research, "private sector partnerships are an essential piece of the puzzle". Investing in innovation over the next 10 years could end hunger and generate over US\$1 trillion in economic returns. Moreover, the CGIAR was helping a group of countries, including Rwanda, Senegal and Kenya, to draft national pathways to food systems transformation.



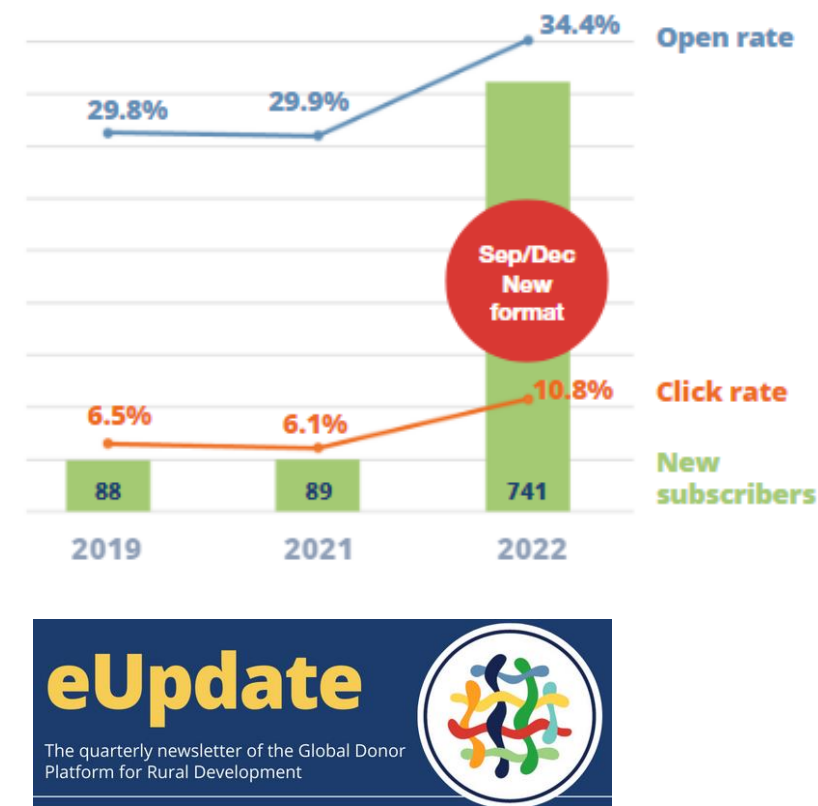
**Stefano Fedeli**  
Director, Office of Sustainable Development Goals, Director, United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub

**"The UN Food Systems Hub is now online and open for business."**

The hub acts as an information source for countries seeking to implement food systems transitions, helping them to design projects, access funding and monitor progress – a critical element because of the need to demonstrate the benefits of food systems transformation for people, the economy and the planet.



# Newsletter



# GDPRD Outreach toolkit

## Corporate presentation

### What is the Donor Platform?

- A **network** of 40 bilateral and multilateral organizations
- Lobbying for **increased public and private investments** in agriculture and rural development
- A **convening space** for working together and sharing experience and knowledge

The Platform has: **Board, Co-chairs, Secretariat**

Membership of the GDPRD helps get your voice heard and increases your influence over policy

**Current Board members**  
Australia  
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation  
European Commission  
Finland  
France  
Germany  
IFAD  
Italy  
Netherlands  
Switzerland  
United Kingdom  
United States

**Current Co-chairs**  
Australia, European Commission

### Focusing on food systems

The platform has developed a new strategy centered on transforming food systems, backed by an energized Secretariat and revitalized communications



## Key messages

- 1) Membership of the GDPRD helps get your voice heard/increases your influence over policy
- 2) Coordinated donor funding in food systems can catalyse more effective investment, and is the best way to achieve food security
- 3) When donors share knowledge and coordinate their strategies and programmes, they maximize their impact and have huge potential to transform food systems
- 4) The platform helps members stay up-to-date with the latest research and thinking on transforming food systems
- 5) The platform has developed a new strategy centred on transforming food systems, backed by an energized secretariat and revitalised communications
- 6) The GDPRD is a catalyst for change, helping donors, development agencies and civil society develop an innovative and shared agenda for ending hunger by transforming food systems
- 7) The GDPRD and its members are lobbying for increased investment in food security and rural development to end hunger on our planet
- 8) Working together with governments and other actors, GDPRD members are a cornerstone in the fight against hunger and poverty and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals
- 9) Keep your finger on the pulse: identify emerging issues through donor discussion within the Platform, then help shape relevant agendas for future discussion and policies.

## Elevator pitch

The Global Donor Platform for Rural Development is a vibrant partnership, advocacy and knowledge network of key donors focusing on food security and rural development.

# Workplan 2023

## Workstreams

Country  
coordination  
Financing  
Data

## Knowledge Sharing

Website, TWG,  
knowledge hubs  
and microsites,  
events, social  
media

## 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

AGA,  
reflections and  
interviews,  
survey

## Networking and Outreach

Interviews  
Podcasts  
Members  
outreach  
Survey

# Thank you



Global Donor Platform  
for Rural Development

First version:05.01.2023

This version: 19.01.2023

*Pillar 3 of the "FARM" initiative: Sustainable production*

## **Establishment of the Secretariat within IFAD**

### Context

Since the Russian offensive against Ukraine, there is a worsening of global food insecurity which accelerated further the already deteriorating trends observed over the past two years. This is particularly affecting vulnerable countries, notably in Africa. Under the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, France launched the Food and Agriculture Resilience Mission (FARM) to address challenges in achieving short and medium term food security and nutrition and promote longer term sustainable and resilient food systems.

The FARM is structured around three pillars: i) the fluidity and transparency of trade, ii) solidarity with Ukraine and the countries most exposed to the consequences of the crisis, and iii) support for sustainable and local agricultural production in developing countries. This third pillar, which is the subject of this note, *focuses on strengthening local production systems and productivity, meeting local and regional demand for nutritious food, building markets and reducing food loss to support the development of sustainable and resilient food systems, in line with country priorities and strategies.*

Four priority areas have been identified: (i) Increase local production and processing; (ii) Encourage the consumption of safe and high-quality products, including by supporting changes in eating habits (less wheat and sugar in particular); (iii) Development of domestic markets and integration of regional markets; and (iv) Reduction of production losses and waste.

IFAD has been asked to host the FARM Pillar 3 Secretariat and to lead technically this pillar.

### **1. Pillar 3 implementation modalities**

Achieving efficient delivery between various stakeholders requires an **agile governance structure** that should not duplicate or circumvent the governance of each institution and/or initiative that will be involved in supporting FARM Pillar 3. Specifically, FARM Pillar 3 delivery will rely on a two-level structure (i) **a secretariat** hosted by IFAD and (ii) **an advisory committee** of organizations representing key stakeholders, member states and private financiers supporting FARM will be responsible for political convening and mobilizing new funding for PARM pillar 3.

### **1.1. FARM Pillar 3 secretariat**

The secretariat's purpose is to:

- Provide day to day management of FARM Pillar 3 activities
- Identify priority crop value chains and/or country pilot system transformation projects for proposal development (see details on Section 1.3)
- Promote enhanced dialogue and coordination between donors, national partners and other stakeholders to accelerate the financing of these projects.
- Support national coordination and ensure that the projects identified correspond to the priorities of the countries public agricultural development policies.
- Organize advisory committee meetings
- Monitor and evaluate results, and coordinate with GAFS dashboard
- Plan and implement communication and outreach activities
- Prepare reports to donors and the Steering Committee.

### **1.2. Composition of the Advisory Committee**

The Advisory Committee (AC) will:

- Provide strategic guidance and oversight, assess and review progress and support external advocacy
- Identify emerging issues, key focal areas and prioritize future actions

The AC will comprise the following voting members:

- The Pillar 3 main donors;
- IFAD;
- Relevant regional organisations (African Union/NEPAD) and the European Commission;
- A representative of the multilateral development banks (AfDB, ADB, World Bank);
- Other Key stakeholders: Chair or Secretary of the Committee on World Food Security Civil Society Mechanism, Chair/Secretary of the Farmers Forum, private sector

In addition to these permanent voting members, there will be the addition of "observer (non-voting) members", to include the participation of additional relevant stakeholders.

### **1.3. Approach and Method**

The delivery of FARM pillar 3 will follow a phased approach given the scale of the issues that it seeks to tackle. The first two years will focus on conducting country pilots to assess the effectiveness and results achieved. The most promising ones will then be scaled up.

During the first phase, focus will be to identify three country cases where the Europe Team and IFAD are already investing, and which could benefit from additional investment from other bilateral and multilateral partners. This would focus on specific country/value chain or system-wide approach to agriculture sector transformation. These initial country cases will constitute "demonstrators" of the acceleration provided by FARM Pillar 3.

The country cases will take into account cross-cutting principles such as strengthening the resilience and sustainability of the value chains, the inclusion of small-scale producers, with particular attention to women and youth, and adaptation to climate change.

Coordination between all actors (beneficiary countries, donors, operators) and with the GAFS initiative launched by the German presidency of the G7 will be strengthened. IFAD will be able to highlight its specialization in covering the last mile. Contact points could be identified in the relevant organizations to enable information sharing and good coordination during projects. Avenues for financing FARM's Pillar 3 country cases will be sought with emphasis placed on mobilizing the private sector.

The secretariat will build on existing initiatives for more sustainable and resilient agriculture and food, including the "Great Green Wall", the "Plant Protein" initiative (launched at the AU/EU Summit on 18 February 2022), the "Save Crops" Operation, and the school meals coalition initiated by the World Food Programme.

### **3. Next steps and milestones**

- 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2023
  - Signing of agreement between Government of France and IFAD for the funding of the Secretariat and transfer of the funding.
  - Recruitment of Secretariat staff and secondment of staff from Government of France
- Q2/Q3 quarter 2023
  - Identification of the three Country pilots where Team Europe, IFAD are already mobilized and/or interested
  - Nomination of AC members
  - Identification of coordination mechanisms at the national level (producers, markets, value added) for country pilots
- 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2023
  - Launch of at least two country pilots
  - First AC meeting organized
- 2024: Finalize pilots and document results, conduct first evaluations of the FARM Pillar 3 initiative and results of investments.