



26 January 2023

Minutes TWG RYE Meeting

Participants

Group Members

- **Frank Bertelmann**,
GIZ (Co-Chair)
- **Sven Braulik**, *GIZ (Co-Chair)*
- **Elisenda Estruch-Puertas**,
ILO (Co-Chair)
- **Fahreen Chudasma**, *AGRA*
- **Peter Wobst**, *FAO*
- **Giulia Castro**, *FAO*
- **Jacqueline Demeranville**, *FAO*
- **Giorgia Prati**, *FAO*

GDPRD Secretariat

- **Maurizio Navarra**
- **Michelle Tang**
- **Alessandro Cordova**
- **Monique Amar**
- **Natalie Zaffiro**

Agenda

ISSUE	ITEM (DAY ONE)	DETAILS
1.	Welcome and introduction	Elisenda Estruch-Puertas (ILO)
2.	In-depth input: rural youth migration	Jacqueline Demeranville (FAO)
3.	Updates from the Secretariat	GDPRD Secretariat
4.	TWG work plan for 2023	Sven Braulik (GIZ)/all
5.	Tour de Table	Elisenda Estruch-Puertas (ILO)/all
6.	Wrap-up and closing	Elisenda Estruch-Puertas (ILO)

Key Highlights/Issues

1. Welcome and introduction

- The Secretariat re-introduces its new consultant, Monique Amar, who was previously an intern. Natalie Zaffiro finishes her internship shortly and joined for the final time.

2. In-depth input: rural youth migration

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

Jacqueline Demeranville introduced FAO programs on Rural Youth Employment and Migration. The presentation details are included in the annexed PowerPoint slides.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- As a mutual broker and bridge, FAO addresses the nexus of migration, labour and agricultural stakeholders, working along the migration cycle. The work is guided by [FAO's Migration Framework](#), covering both internal and international migration.
- FAO's approach is to minimize the adverse drivers of migration and boost alternatives for rural youth, harness diaspora potential to boost youth employment in the agrifood sector, and support the sustainable reintegration of young rural returnees
- In a recent FAO project in Kiambu county, Kenya, more than 1,500 youth were trained in agricultural practices, business, value chain analysis mapping, market research and ICT in order to set up their agri-businesses. Others were trained as village-based advisors, youth coaches and mentors, and community bankers. Direct support to beneficiaries and institutional actors resulted in the development of policies focused on youth, migration, social protection and cooperatives, bringing stakeholders together at national and local levels, and linking the national migration coordination mechanism to the county level.
- In Uganda, FAO piloted a programme on mobilizing diaspora agripreneurs to generate youth employment opportunities in the agri-food sector, strengthening the enabling environment for diaspora contributions and empowering diaspora agripreneurs and networks. FAO organized the first Diaspora Agribusiness Conference and Awards, which has been continued by the Ugandan government with an innovative diaspora youth agribusiness matching mechanism.
- With COVID-19, reverse migration to rural areas increased as migrants lost their jobs and mobility restrictions increased. In response, FAO increased support of sustainable reintegration, specifically in rural areas.
- In Senegal, FAO worked with the government to establish rural orientation desks to serve both prospective migrants and return migrants. These desks provided training and coaching, setting up a network of rural hubs for agribusiness support for youth, which then targeted young return migrants. The project supported national and local government with community engagement, integration of migration into local development planning and the creation of a lessons learned toolkit on the sustainable reintegration of returning rural migrants. Similar projects were implemented in countries such as Nepal, Guatemala and Madagascar.
- A video was shared on a [first-hand account of migration](#) by a Kenyan returnee, Paul. To explore more, visit FAO's [migration page](#) and FAO's [rural employment page](#).

Q&A

- What are the root causes of youth migration and how does this complement FAO's other

work?

- This work focuses on the target beneficiaries: those who are thinking of migrating or those who have recently returned and need extra support in re-establishing themselves. Additionally, FAO worked with community and empowerment groups to discuss the factors that drive people to leave, while also creating a more open and accepting environment for those who return and may otherwise face stigma. This work with rural youth migration differs because it is highly targeted and emphasizes the creation and utilization of networks.
- FAO has also been working with young women, who typically stay behind when many men migrate, leaving the community short on labour. Women often lack community support and face gender-specific barriers in accessing finance and markets.
- In Kiambu county, FAO supported the local government with integrating migration considerations into local development and agricultural programming and planning, addressing this gap at the policy level. Rural stakeholders should be aware of migration dynamics and the specific needs of each migrant. The study also revealed negative experiences of migrants, highlighting the need to share information on migration challenges and opportunities. In Kenya, such exchange is facilitated through the national coordination mechanisms on migration for county outreach, acting as a venue for exchange at the local level.
- Could you identify who is more inclined to migrate or to stay?
 - It depends. Individuals who are financially better off are more likely to migrate internationally (e.g., in Kiambu, outmigration to the Middle East and/or Europe and USA). Those with limited resources and access to information are more likely to migrate internally, to urban areas. From Kiambu most rural-urban migration is to Nairobi.
- How do local governments address migration in local development plans?
 - The study and consultations with Kiambu authorities highlighted a lack of knowledge and awareness of the linkages between migration, agriculture and youth employment. Agriculture and rural development planning should consider, for example, the challenges related to outmigration of young labour force and the potential contribution of migration to rural development (e.g. through remittances, transfer of skills and ideas and diaspora).
- Is there an example of a project that is working with youth that have already migrated?
 - While the broader programming of FAO encompasses projects incorporating refugees into agricultural development and value chains, there has not been a project directly focused on youth in the destination areas and in relation to migration.
- How do you identify and link with diaspora?
 - FAO is piloting a project in Uganda to facilitate and maximise diaspora contribution to generate employment and youth employment opportunities in agribusiness. FAO works in collaboration with Uganda and identifies the main countries of destination, carrying out focus-group discussions and targeting high-skill diaspora, mainly agripreneurs willing to invest back home. Following these public discussions, the Uganda Diaspora in Agribusiness Network (UDAN) was implemented to facilitate meaningful collaboration in Ugandan agri-food sector development between diaspora abroad and in-country policy-makers.
 - The Diaspora-Youth Agribusiness Matchmaking Programme identifies youth agripreneurs within the same sector or value chain segment and facilitates bi-lateral meetings and conferences. Two legal agreements have been formalised between

diaspora and youth: one for Ugandan youth to sell their products in the U.K. and the other is diaspora entrepreneurs supporting the construction of a solar drying tunnel in Uganda.

3. Updates from the Secretariat

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

The GDPRD secretariat gave updates on ongoing workstreams and upcoming events, and spotlighted the Platform's Recommendations Database.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- On 13 February, the GDPRD is holding a donor roundtable on food systems data, a decade after the UN announced a data revolution. Fifteen data initiatives will present, to take stock of the last 15 years and identify paths forward. This is a closed conversation among a limited number of donors and other organizations, including the chairs of the TWGs.
- A series of webinars between February and March will focus on country-level donor coordination in Africa and Asia. The workstream on finance will start soon, bringing donors together to discuss financing options, private sector financing, and breakthrough financing for food systems transformation.
- The data event and the two workstreams will feed into the 2023 AGA, which is the 20th anniversary of the GDPRD. The theme will be a reflection on the aid effectiveness agenda, taking stock of what has been achieved and what needs to be improved. Upon the Board's acceptance of this proposal, the Secretariat will design the assembly. TWG RYE is invited.
- The [Food Systems Recommendations Database](#) has been updated with policy recommendations from international reports and conferences, including many youth-related recommendations. This is an incredible online tool with searchable keywords, themes and recommendations that will be boosted in the coming months.

Q&A:

- How often is the Recommendations Database updated?
 - The database is continuously updated with relevant reports related to global food policy and strategy. It is curated by the Secretariat, who pulls recommendations verbatim from the reports, organises them according to thematic area, and clusters them in similar recommendation groups. If you have feedback or see reports that have been overlooked, please share this with the Secretariat.
- Regarding the country level coordination workstream, how does this actually work? Who is engaging? And how do you involve the thematic working groups?
 - A senior advisor is preparing a first round of options to present at the next workshop. At this stage, high level officials from governments, bilaterals and multilaterals are being interviewed. All the thematic working group co-chairs will also be engaged and interviewed. This will culminate in the seminars and a final report.

4. TWG RYE work plan for 2023

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

A presentation of the work plan structure was given for the upcoming year, and the collection of ideas, input and feedback was highly encouraged and should continue after the meeting on the [whiteboard](#).

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The TWG Work Plan holds five outcome areas: (1) improved alignment with and linking to

international policy processes, initiatives and platforms; (2) increasing strategic coherence and coordination among donors, development agencies, and national and local institutions; (3) evaluation and co-creation of innovative approaches, identifying how donors can boost decent rural youth employment across their operations; (4) strategic engagement with and empowerment of rural youth and youth organisations; and (5) joint engagement and collaboration with other stakeholders, such as the private sector, services providers and agripreneur organisations. The co-chairs drafted a 2023 Work Plan, which should be expanded upon by group members and honed for clarity and relevance.

- It is difficult to determine what TWG RYE should do regarding a follow-up on the CFS policy recommendations since implementation is in the hand of member states and the CFS Secretariat; however, the TWG RYE could bring this work forward, possibly stimulating and engaging the CFS Secretariat.
- There was agreement to better understand what TWG RYE members are already doing to empower rural youth, what groups/organizations they are working with and with what approaches. There could then be an exchange and mapping of youth organizations and empowerment approaches, which the group could utilize. The group should locate 1 - 2 concrete activities within the broad concept of rural youth empowerment, building on the ILO's work on social dialogue with and for youth
- In order to develop an actionable and realistic workplan with concrete activities, some crosscutting topics could be combined to focus activities and workstreams on 5 - 10 topics. . It was also discussed to highlight possible "hot topics" for this year (e.g. youth networks or Green Jobs - a topic which should be continued in 2023), including the GDPRD's finance and country-level coordination workstreams, possibly working on one country (e.g., Kenya) or bringing a "green angle" to technical inputs, such as forestry and rural tourism.
- Other actors could be engaged in the group through in-depth inputs or by locating synergies for collaboration, such as with S4YE, [Decent Jobs for Youth](#), and the [Youth Foresight Platform](#).

5. Tour de Table

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

Members gave short updates on their current work.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- FAO and IOM developed a [Toolkit on Mainstreaming Migration into Rural Development](#) in Kenya that delves into some of the issues discussed during the in-depth presentation.
- There is a program in [GIZ on migration and diaspora](#), but not focused on the agrifood sector. The programme harnesses the potential offered by regular migration and diaspora commitment for sustainable development in over 20 countries.
- BMZ launched the new [Africa Strategy](#), which focuses on jobs, youth, women and transformation of agrifood systems, but also more structured transformation partnerships.
- Germany made an explicit commitment to creating cross-sectoral jobs in Africa, mentioning in particular agriculture. Questions remain around how the group can engage and support this process and strategy, working to enhance bilateral and multilateral coordination.
- The [Partnership for improving prospects for forcibly displaced persons and host communities \(PROSPECTS\)](#) is financially supported by the MFA from Netherlands, and is part of a joint effort bringing together the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Bank. The Partnership hopes to transform the way

governments and other stakeholders, including the social partners and the private sector, respond to forced displacement crises, by fostering an enabling environment for socio-economic inclusion and improving access to education and protection. Within the ILO, the project is being implemented through collaborations across different departments, building on ILO tools and methodologies. It is being implemented in 8 countries (Egypt, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Sudan, and Uganda).

- It was also discussed how to boost engagement and contribution from group members in view of decreasing participation in meetings. The Co-Chairs will be looking into this together with the GDPRD Secretariat.

6. Wrap-up and closing

- The next regular call will be near the end of March, time and date TBC.

Summary of action points

ITEM	ACTION	TIMELINE	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)
3.	Explore the GDPRD Recommendations Database	N/A	All
3.	The Secretariat will be engaging the Co-Chairs in the country level coordination workstream.	February 2023	Co-Chairs
4.	Read the Power Point on the Work Planning 2023 & contribute to the White Board to further curate the RYE work plan.	ASAP	All
4.	Come up with a plan to reach out to members to address low turn-out at meetings, and solidify individual's commitment to the group and its mission.	ASAP	Co-Chairs, all