



# Minutes TWG RYE Meeting

## Participants

### Group Members

- **Haile Abebe**, *African Union*
- **Theresa Herbold**, *BMZ*
- **Ileana Grandelis**, *FAO*
- **Peter Wobst**, *FAO*
- **Sven Braulik**, *GIZ (Co-Chair)*
- **Frank Bertelmann**, *GIZ (Co-Chair)*
- **Brian Chipili**, *IFAD*
- **Mollie Brennan**, *IFAD*
- **Rahul Antao**, *IFAD*
- **Elisenda Estruch-Puertas**, *ILO (Co-Chair)*

- **Ji-Yeun Rim**, *OECD*
- **Jane Lowicki-Zucca**, *USAID/RFS*
- **Urvashi Chopra**, *World Bank*
- **Genna Tesdall**, *YPARD*
- **Glindys Luciano**, *YPARD*

### GDPRD Secretariat

- **Maurizio Navarra**
- **Michelle Tang**
- **Alessandro Cordova**
- **Sierra Berardelli**
- **Nicole Burch**

## Agenda

ISSUE	ITEM (DAY ONE)	DETAILS
1.	Welcome & Introduction	Elisenda Estruch-Puertas (ILO)
2.	UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment	Elisenda Estruch-Puertas (ILO)/all
3.	Updates from the Secretariat	Maurizio Navarra/Secretariat
4.	AGA 2023 RYE Session	Sven Braulik (GIZ)/all
5.	Tour de Table & Miscellaneous	Elisenda Estruch-Puertas (ILO)/all
6.	Wrap-up and closing	Elisenda Estruch-Puertas (ILO)

# Key Highlights/Issues

## 1. Welcome and introduction

- Genna Tesdall (YPARD), Glindys Luciano (YPARD), Urvashi Chopra (World Bank) and Theresa Herbold (BMZ) joined the call for the first time.
- YPARD joined the TWG RYE as a new member.

## 2. UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment

### PURPOSE OF SECTION:

*Members reflected on youth engagement during the UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment (UNFSS+2), which took place on 24-26 July 2023, with input from Young Professionals for Agricultural Development (YPARD).*

### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Leading up to the UNFSS+2, YPARD and other youth organizations involved in the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit came together to review progress made and lessons learned on youth engagement since 2021. The numerous organizations co-hosted a side event at the UNFSS+2, "[Youth Leading Transformation: Accelerating Inclusive Food Systems in collaboration with UNFSS<sup>1</sup>](#)", advocating for better, systematic youth engagement in decision making and the implementation of the national pathways.
  - A Youth Coalition (name TBD) was established, which will allow youth-led organizations at local and regional levels to work with UN Food Systems Coordination Hub Member States on continuous youth inclusion, in both the Hub and in shaping the national pathways. The Coalition is currently undergoing a consultative process with Member States, Ministries, and other coalitions to receive feedback, develop a plan for longevity and avoid duplicating the work of other coalitions.
- The Decent Work Coalition for Equitable Food Systems co-hosted a side event at the UNFSS+2, "[Empowering food systems workers and upholding rights through innovation and collaboration<sup>2</sup>](#)", showcasing plans to drive more equitable livelihoods for young people at the national level, and a representative from the UNFSS Stakeholder Engagement and Networking Advisory Group (SENA) was present on the panel. Youth are already a key focus of the Coalition as a vulnerable group, and the Coalition will draw parallels and share lessons learned with the Youth Coalition.

### Q&A

- Has the Youth Coalition received concrete feedback?
  - There has been feedback, particularly from governments, on how to implement this work at the national level and understanding the differences in priorities at national and global levels. There has also been feedback on the topics the Coalition should prioritize, namely youth employment.
- Reflecting on the last two years since the UN Food Systems Summit, have developments or progress been made on issues raised in 2021?
  - Two positive developments since 2021 are that the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub currently has two active youth representatives, and the creation of the World

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.unfoodsystemshub.org/docs/unfoodsystemslibraries/stocktaking-moment/side-event-information-leaflets/youth-accelerating-food-systems-transformation-side-event-updated.pdf?sfvrsn=a38d6c38\\_3](https://www.unfoodsystemshub.org/docs/unfoodsystemslibraries/stocktaking-moment/side-event-information-leaflets/youth-accelerating-food-systems-transformation-side-event-updated.pdf?sfvrsn=a38d6c38_3).

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.unfoodsystemshub.org/docs/unfoodsystemslibraries/stocktaking-moment/side-event-information-leaflets/decent-work-coalition-information-leaflet.pdf?sfvrsn=4d5ef603\\_2](https://www.unfoodsystemshub.org/docs/unfoodsystemslibraries/stocktaking-moment/side-event-information-leaflets/decent-work-coalition-information-leaflet.pdf?sfvrsn=4d5ef603_2)

Food Forum, which connects youth with various initiatives. However, there is an overall feeling that the momentum of youth engagement has decreased since 2021 as youth are often not included in the formulation and implementation of the national pathways.

### 3. Updates from the Secretariat

#### PURPOSE OF SECTION:

*The GDPRD Secretariat provided updates on ongoing workstreams and upcoming events.*

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- On 27 June, the GDPRD, IFAD, and the European Commission hosted a high-level hybrid event on [County Level Donor Coordination for Food Systems Transformation](#). The event was the culmination of GDPRD's workstream on donor coordination, initiated in July 2022, to support donors and their partners with practical guidance on how to improve coordination and alignment, particularly at the country level.
  - Key messages from the event include: (1) current crises create challenges but also opportunities for improved coordination on food systems; (2) dialogue and negotiation are key to supporting food systems transformation at country level; and (3) coordinated investments and collaborative programming are needed in key areas including data, finance, policy, crisis response, long-term resilience and monitoring for results and impact.
- The GDPRD is undertaking a [workstream on innovative financing for food systems](#) together with the Shamba Centre for Food & Climate, to investigate how to make donors and public funds more catalytic for food systems through innovative approaches. The research includes a series of interviews to explore how donors, philanthropic organizations, public funds and blended capital funds can make their funding effective and act as an incentive for achieving SDG 2.
- The [GDPRD's Annual General Assembly \(AGA\)](#) will take place in Rome on 26-27 October in a hybrid format. This year's AGA coincides with the Donor Platform's 20th anniversary, a milestone reflected in the theme "20 Years of rural development and aid effectiveness: Where are we now and where are we going?". During the AGA, donors and others will reflect on the Aid Effectiveness Agenda, with a forward-looking focus on balancing emergency responses and long-term sustainability and resilience measures, donor approaches, and stakeholder engagement. There will be high-level sessions on the two workstreams and a dedicated session for the TWG RYE in the afternoon of 27 October.

### 4. AGA 2023 Session

#### PURPOSE OF SECTION:

*The Group brainstormed the TWG RYE's session at the 2023 AGA.*

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- While the GDPRD celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, the TWG RYE is celebrating its 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The TWG's AGA session will therefore reflect on lessons learned around the effectiveness of interventions to promote more and better jobs for rural youth, with a particular focus on country-level coordination, taking country examples from Kenya and Mozambique. The draft concept note was shared with TWG members, and proposed speaker names and structure of the session is open for feedback. Members are encouraged to join a preparatory working group to further develop the session.

- FAO, IFAD, OECD, World Bank and YPARD agreed to contribute to the session and its preparation where possible. Other members are encouraged to provide feedback on the concept note and share their interest in joining the preparatory group.

#### **Q&A:**

- Why have Mozambique and Kenya been selected as the country examples for the session? Can other countries, or just one country, be considered?
  - They were originally selected as several TWG members have active programmes and projects in these two countries and there was potential to compare the two. Focusing on only one country may be sufficient due to time constraints, however, it should not discourage members from sharing other country examples and lessons learned relevant to the theme of the session.
- Could the session's focus shift to align with the overall AGA theme on finance? Members could provide concrete examples of their involvement in blended finance mechanisms, focusing on current funding gaps and what is needed for rural youth employment.
  - Finance is an important topic and could be integrated into the current set-up of the session by portraying two aspects: an overview of donor funding for youth employment programmes, which relates to the session's original focus on donor coordination, and access to finance for youth as target groups and SMEs.

## **5. Tour de Table**

### **PURPOSE OF SECTION:**

*Members provided brief updates on their current work.*

### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- OECD recently published a report: [Agro-Food Jobs for Youth in Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia](#). The G20 Initiative for Rural Youth Employment Progress Report is nearly finalized, and a draft can be shared with TWG members. A report on green transition impacts on labour focusing on South-East Asia will be published in October/November 2023.
- YPARD is launching a 3.5-year project on agroecology extension in Uganda, Madagascar, Ecuador, and Costa Rica, funded by IFAD, the European Commission and GFRAS. YPARD will participate at the World Food Forum flagship event, the FAO Science and Innovation Week in October, and the UNFCCC 28 in the Food Systems Pavilion and the Food for Climate Pavilion.
- In June, 250 participants from over 20 countries gathered for a network meeting organized by BMZ, "Partners for change – Transformation to a food secure, resilient and sustainable future". Jointly developed policy recommendations to transform agriculture and food systems were handed to the State Secretary and can be read [online](#).
- GIZ is supporting a [pilot project](#) to promote rural youth employment in Mozambique and is working with youth organizations in Malawi through the [National Council for Youth Organizations \(NYCON\)](#).
- The green jobs webinar is in the TWG's 2023 work plan and may be held following the AGA. A draft concept note will be shared for feedback and suggestions, and members interested in joining the webinar preparation should email the Co-Chairs.

## **6. Wrap-up and closing**

- The next regular call will be held alongside the AGA as a hybrid meeting at IFAD Headquarters and online, on Wednesday 25 October 2023, from 15:00-16:30 CET.

## Summary of action points

ITEM	ACTION	TIMELINE	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)
1.	Provide updates to Michelle Tang/Secretariat for the TWG RYE website.	N/A	All
2.	Review the AGA Concept Note and share interest in joining the preparatory group with the Co-Chairs.	ASAP	All
3.	Provide feedback on the Green Jobs Webinar concept note.	N/A	All