



Minutes TWG RYE Meeting

Participants

Group Members

- **Annira Busch**, *BMZ*
- **Simona Bortolotti**, *EU*
- **Anna Befus**, *FAO*
- **Frank Bertelmann**, *GIZ (Co-Chair)*
- **Sven Braulik**, *GIZ (Co-Chair)*
- **Mollie Brennan**, *IFAD*
- **Elisenda Estruch-Puertas**,
ILO (Co-Chair)

- **Ji-Yeun Rim**, *OECD/DEV*
- **Cyriaque Hakizimana**, *PLAAS*
- **Jane Lowicki-Zucca**, *USAID/RFS*
- **Genna Tesdall**, *YPARD*

GDPRD Secretariat

- **Sierra Berardelli**
- **Nicole Burch**

Agenda

ISSUE	ITEM	DETAILS
1.	Welcome & Introduction	Frank Bertelmann (GIZ)
2.	Upcoming AGA Session	Frank Bertelmann (GIZ)/all
3.	G20 Initiative for RYE Stocking Report: Key findings	Ji-Yeun Rim (OECD)
4.	Tour de Table & Miscellaneous	All
5.	Wrap-up and closing	Frank Bertelmann (GIZ)

Key Highlights/Issues

1. Welcome and introduction

- The Co-Chairs welcomed the first hybrid meeting of the thematic working group.
- Simona Bortolotti, European Commission, joined the call for the first time.

2. Upcoming AGA Session

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

Review and discuss the upcoming Annual General Assembly, including the TWG session which will be held in a hybrid in-person/virtual format on 27 October.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The GDPRD's [Annual General Assembly \(AGA\)](#) will take place in Rome on 26-27 October in a hybrid format at IFAD Headquarters in Rome, Italy and online. 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.
- The TWG's AGA session, [Leveraging Change for Rural Youth Employment and Food Systems Transformation](#), will include 9 speakers representing youth, country, continental and international perspectives, to discuss country-level donor coordination and the effectiveness of interventions to promote rural youth employment in practice, with specific country examples from Kenya. The event recording will be made available in the coming days after the AGA.

3. G20 Initiative for RYE Stocking Report: Key findings

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

Ji-Yeun Rim (OECD) presented the key findings of the [G20 Initiative on Rural Youth Employment Stocktaking Report: A better future for rural youth](#).

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- In 2017, under Germany's presidency, the G20 launched an initiative to promote rural youth employment with six action areas, including two quantifiable targets for skills development (5 million employment-related skills training received over the next five years) and job creation (to contribute to creating approximately 1.1 million new jobs to benefit young people, including in rural Africa by 2022). With the G20 Development Working Group, OECD assessed the progress made on these commitments, including responses by nine G20 members and six international organizations for a final collection of 715 RYE-related projects, of which 94% (671) were in Africa. The information requested comprised flagship project description, RYE project results and budget between 2017-2022, and a desk review complemented the analysis for missing information.
- The G20 initiative overachieved the targets for employment skills development training and job creation. Between 2017 and 2022, approximately 2.9 million jobs were created, and 6.4 million youth were trained on employability-related skills; 74% of job creation results and

66% of employability results can be attributed to directly G20-funded projects. The projects that received the most funding included agriculture value chain development, skills development including technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and entrepreneurship development; for a total of USD 9 billion for the three categories. The results are based on nearly 300 projects for which information could be found out of the 715 projects collected, and therefore more complete data means the achievements may be even higher.

- The study also found that official development assistance (ODA) towards rural youth employment projects has steadily increased from 2010 to 2020, particularly in developing countries and Africa specifically, where total ODA reached 16.9 billion USD, with 9.3 billion coming from G20 countries.
- Ten flagship projects were selected as best practices. Success factors include involvement of the private sector and potential employers, linkages with the national qualification framework, use of local knowledge and expertise, skill training and employment provided jointly, and TVET content adapted and updated to the local context and needs to enterprises. One successful project in Africa trained nearly 14,000 youth with 97% who found immediate employment, and integrated a strong gender-sensitive training for employers.
- Recommendations for development agencies and multilateral organizations include: ensure coherence between global initiatives, ensure better donor coordination and organization of resources to meet common RYE targets, and support G20 in setting common indicators to monitor progress on RYE. Recommendations for governments and the private sector include: offer on-the-job training and wage subsidy programmes, facilitate dialogue with the private sector and educators, improve public services in lagging regions, and value local knowledge and empower local authorities.
- The study concluded that future multilateral initiatives could set more ambitious targets, and after targets are set, a common framework should be put in place to promote alignment in efforts, including basic definitions of key concepts, types of employment to promote or create, and indicators to measure employment creation and employability. Furthermore, a standardized reporting mechanism, with the possibility to tag projects to an initiative, would help monitor progress towards targets and facilitate inputs to the G20 Development Working Group accountability reports.

Q&A and Discussion:

- Was there any correlation between the project type and how much economic growth was stimulated for maximum benefit? While skills development and training are important, if the structural constraints that inhibit African economies to grow sustainably so that they can create jobs are not addressed, issues will remain.
 - The research examined two broad categories of projects: labour demand and labour supply, and the majority of projects focused on labour supply, including skills development and TVET. Projects focusing on labour demand mainly concerned agriculture value chain development. Indeed, there must be a balance between the two for development to properly occur.
- What was considered “youth” for the data analysis? There are varying definitions across countries and organizations.
 - The review used information sent by the respondents. Indeed, youth definitions vary across countries and organisations. In general OECD uses ages 15-29 as youth for the purpose analysis. In this case, all definitions used by the projects were accepted.
- In your opinion, what was the most surprising insight from this research?
 - The lack of measurement and results of the projects, even after completion. As

projects vary, some are more difficult to measure impact than others, but overall, the results reporting and impact assessment was low.

- How will the results, conclusions and recommendations be translated into next steps? The quality and decency of jobs should also be considered in future monitoring systems, including job duration, working conditions, resistance to crises, etc.
 - There are plans to present the results to the G20 Development Working Group for further discussions, including the need for a longitudinal study to track job evolution, likely in January once Brazil has taken the next G20 presidency.
- How did the study harmonize different projects' objectives into specific indicators?
 - There are challenges in harmonizing different projects' objectives as some titles are broad. Therefore, OECD manually reviewed each project and selected large-scale projects with a strong focus on rural youth employment and results reporting.

4. Tour de Table and Miscellaneous

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

Members gave short updates on their current work.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Young African Researchers in Agriculture (YARA) will celebrate its 10th anniversary in November 2024, and will organize a conference and other activities surrounding this.
- USAID has recently undergone internal restructuring, and the Bureau for Resilience, Environment and Food Security will strongly prioritize integrated action on water, food security, youth, and gender inclusion. For example, USAID's Generating Resilience and Opportunities for Women (GROW) initiative focuses on women in food and water systems. The Bureau for Inclusive Growth, Partnerships and Innovation has launched the "Youth, Women, and Green Jobs Diagnostic Activity" on October 1, which aims to adapt World Bank diagnostic tools to assess inclusion in agriculture and food systems, starting in two pilot countries with potential scaling to multiple countries.
- The Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services held its annual meeting on 17-19 October in Denver, Colorado, under the theme [Building the Next Generation of Leaders in Agriculture](#).
- OECD recently published a report, [Agro-Food Jobs for Youth in Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia](#). A report on green transition impacts on labour in South-East Asia will be published early next year.
- GIZ recently published a guiding document, [Matched – Connecting Youth to Rural Employment Opportunities](#), which serves as a how-to-guide for rural opportunity fairs. The opportunity fairs aim to connect rural youth and women with the private sector, training centers, and other key stakeholders, to gain insights into innovative business models, training programs, and potential internship and job opportunities.
- YPARD has begun co-organizing a [series of webinars](#) ahead of COP28 to prepare youth to engage in global climate events and negotiations. YPARD will also participate in the [Food Systems Pavilion](#) and the Food for Climate Pavilion.
- The GDPRD held a hybrid side event at the fifty-first plenary session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS 51), on Monday 23 October 2023, on [Innovative approaches to sustainable finance for food systems transformation](#). The Senior Manager's meeting was held on 24 October and the Annual General Assembly on 26 and 27 October. Meeting minutes and event recordings will be made available on the [website](#) in the coming weeks.

5. Wrap-up and closing

- The TWG will hold a Green Jobs Webinar ahead of COP28, tentatively scheduled for Thursday, 16 November 2023, 15:00-16:00 CET. A draft concept note was shared with members to provide feedback and inputs to the Co-Chairs by 3 November 2023.

Summary of action points

ITEM	ACTION	TIMELINE	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)
1.	Provide feedback/input to the Green Jobs Webinar concept note.	3 November 2023	All
2.	Provide event updates to Michelle Tang/Secretariat for the TWG RYE website.	N/A	All