

Investing in Youth: The Role of Development Banks

15 APRIL 2025, 15:00–16:15 CET



SPEAKER BIOS

A webinar by the Thematic Working Group
on Rural Youth Employment



SCENE SETTING



Sara Elder

Head, Employment Analysis and Economic Policies Unit, International Labour Organization (ILO)

Sara Elder is the Head of the Employment Analysis and Economic Policy Unit of the ILO Employment Policies Department. Prior to this, she served as the Senior Economist of the ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok. Her areas of expertise include, among others, labour market analysis, employment policy development, skills and employability promotion, and youth employment. She led a global programme on the transition from school to work, assisted ILO member states on evidence-based policymaking and has written extensively on issues of relevance to the world of work.

DISCUSSANTS



Edson Mpyisi

Chief Financial Economist and Coordinator, Enable Youth Program, African Development Bank Group (AfDB)

Edson Mpyisi is a Chief Financial Economist and Coordinator of the Enable Youth Program at the African Development Bank Group (AfDB), with over 25 years of experience in economic and agricultural development. His expertise includes policy, research, development finance, and investment strategy across Africa. At AfDB, he led and appraised projects exceeding US\$100 million, focusing on agro-industrial and youth empowerment initiatives. Under his leadership, the Enable Youth Program has mobilized over US\$670 million in 18 countries, fostering youth-led agribusiness and employment. Previously, he served as Head of Agriculture and Food Security at the African Union Commission (2005-2009), leading the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). He was also Country Coordinator for the Food Security Research Project in Rwanda, a project by Michigan State University, and was also the Rwanda Country Representative for USAID's Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWSNet). Edson is a strong advocate for agriculture-driven economic transformation and youth empowerment. His work bridges policy, finance, and innovation to support inclusive and resilient food systems across Africa.



Ousmane Diaby

Lead Youth Empowerment Specialist, Women & Youth Empowerment, Resilience & Climate Action Department, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)

Ousmane Diaby is the Lead Youth Empowerment Specialist in IsDB's Resilience and Climate Action Department, where he spearheads innovative programs to empower young people through digital literacy, entrepreneurship, and civic engagement initiatives. His work focuses on creating sustainable pathways for youth development and inclusive growth across IsDB member countries. Previously, as Lead Fund Management Specialist for IsDB's \$500 million Science, Technology, and Innovation Fund, he directed strategic investments in early-stage startups and sustainable technology projects. Before joining IsDB, Ousmane built a distinguished career in investment banking and fund management at Bank of America, Citi Group, and Aviva Investors in London, where he specialized in global equity funds and trading operations. He holds an MSc in Finance from the University of Leicester and the CFA UK Investment Management Certification. He graduated with a distinction in Finance, Money, and Banking from the University of East London. Currently, Ousmane is pursuing a PhD at the University of Portsmouth, researching responsible AI applications in finance and innovation, with a focus on sustainable and ethical practices.

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DISCUSSANTS CONT.



Rahul Antao

Technical Specialist, Rural Youth and Social Inclusion, Office of Technical Delivery, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Rahul Antao is a Technical Specialist, Rural Youth and Social Inclusion, Office of Technical Delivery, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Before joining the Fund in 2016, Antao had worked with sustainable food systems for almost a decade, focusing on indigenous and biocultural diversity. From 2012 to 2015, he worked in the northeast of India with North East Slow Food Agrobiodiversity (NESFAS) - an organization dedicated to supporting the sustainable development of indigenous peoples and their food systems. Antao holds two undergraduate degrees; one from the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) with a focus on food production and applied nutrition in India and a second one in food and agricultural sciences from the Università degli Studi di Scienze Gastronomiche in Italy. Antao also serves as a Steering Committee member for the Young Professionals for Agricultural Development (YPARD).
