

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Financing the future of
food: A call to action
The catalytic role of ODA
and blended finance



Global Donor
Platform for
Rural Development

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The 2024 Annual Report of the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (GDPRD) was produced by the GDPRD Secretariat, under the coordination of Maurizio Navarra, Secretariat Coordinator, and Michelle Tang, Communications Coordination Analyst, in accordance with IFAD's guidelines for publishing. The report was drafted by Mandakini D. Surie, Senior Consultant, and graphically designed and laid out by Andrea Wöhr (WOERDESIGN), Graphic Design Consultant.

ABBREVIATIONS

AGA Annual General Assembly | **AI** artificial intelligence | **DFI** development finance institution | **FAO** Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations | **FCDO** Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office of the United Kingdom | **FfD4** Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development | **GDPRD** Global Donor Platform for Rural Development | **GDWGL** Global Donor Working Group on Land | **IFAD** International Fund for Agricultural Development | **ILO** International Labour Organization | **ODA** official development assistance | **OECD** Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development | **SDC** Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation | **SDG** Sustainable Development Goal | **SDG 2** Sustainable Development Goal 2 "Zero Hunger" | **SMEs** small and medium-sized enterprises | **SOFI** State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World | **TWG** thematic working group | **USAID** United States Agency for International Development

© 2025 Secretariat of the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development, hosted by IFAD

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the International Fund for Agricultural Development of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The designations "developed" and "developing" economies are intended for statistical convenience and do not necessarily express a judgment about the stage reached by a particular country or area in the development process. This publication or any part thereof may be reproduced without prior permission from IFAD, provided that the publication or extract therefrom reproduced is attributed to IFAD, that the title of this publication is stated in any publication and that a copy thereof is sent to IFAD.

ISBN: 978-92-9266-414-5

Cover photo: ©IFAD/Robel Fikru Atomsa

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2 | WHO WE ARE

Our vision

Our mission

Functions of the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development

4 | 2024 PLATFORM HIGHLIGHTS

2024 in numbers

Key events

8 | INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO FINANCING THE FUTURE OF FOOD

Reflections from Platform Co-Chairs

Platform contributions to the *2024 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World* report

Development Finance 101 webinars

2024 Annual General Assembly highlights

Platform workstreams: Driving strategic impact

14 | OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS

Communication highlights

Web and social media engagement

17 | THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS

Sustainable/blended finance for food systems

Rural youth employment

Land governance

SDG 2 Roadmap Working Group

26 | LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025

29 | ANNEX I – LIST OF PLATFORM MEMBERS IN 2024

31 | ANNEX II – CONTRIBUTIONS

32 | ANNEX III – SECRETARIAT 2024 EXPENDITURE, BY CATEGORY

WHO WE ARE

The Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (GDPRD) is an informal network of 43 bilateral and multilateral donors, international financial institutions, intergovernmental organizations, foundations and development agencies. It was set up in 2003 with a remit to help maximize the effectiveness of development aid in agriculture, rural development and food systems. The Platform brings together donors who believe the best way to tackle global poverty and hunger is to develop agriculture, reshape food systems and invest in rural communities. The GDPRD is hosted by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).



OUR VISION

Donors effectively catalyse change:

Donor investments enable transformation of food systems for better access to safe and nutritious food, improved environmental sustainability and more prosperous rural communities.



OUR MISSION

Brokering donor collaboration for impact:

The Platform brokers donor collaboration to enhance the impact of donors' policies, investments and programmes on food systems and rural development.



FUNCTIONS OF THE GLOBAL DONOR PLATFORM FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Strategic influencing

Knowledge sharing

Networking and convening



2024 PLATFORM HIGHLIGHTS

Using innovative approaches to finance the future of food was the key theme and focus of the Platform's activities in 2024.

Guided by the GDPRD and [Shamba Centre for Food & Climate](#) 2023 flagship report on *Unleashing the Catalytic Power of Donor Financing to Achieve Sustainable Development Goal 2*, the Platform convened donors and development actors in discussions on the changing landscape of official development assistance (ODA), the role of the private sector, and innovative blended finance mechanisms in financing agriculture and rural development.

The joint report's key message is that every donor dollar has the potential to mobilize four dollars in commercial finance, if donors and development finance institutions (DFIs) take higher risks with their grants and lending. Emphasizing this message, the GDPRD organized a series of webinars on the fundamentals of development finance to help the development community better understand core principles of development finance and different donor approaches. In March 2024, the GDPRD and Shamba Centre released a supplementary *Technical note*, sharing detailed research, findings and recommendations from the enquiry.

In response to one of the report's recommendations, the GDPRD established its **fourth thematic working group (TWG)** in April 2024, on [Sustainable/ Blended Finance for Food Systems](#). The group consists of bilateral and multilateral agencies, DFIs, impact investors and academics, with the overall goal of increasing transparency, developing benchmarks and building evidence to improve decision-making and more effective allocation of donor dollars.

The joint report's key message is that every donor dollar has the potential to mobilize four dollars in commercial finance, if donors and development finance institutions take higher risks with their grants and lending.

The **GDPRD and Shamba Centre report** served as a key contribution to the [2024 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World \(SOFI\) report](#), which is helping to shape global discussions on food and nutrition financing. The GDPRD was part of the [SOFI 2024 Financial Technical Advisory Committee](#), facilitated and moderated by the Shamba Centre, which advised the SOFI 2024 team on innovative public and private financing for food security and nutrition. The SOFI report authors acknowledged the Platform's significant role in the development financing agenda.

The **2024 GDPRD Annual General Assembly (AGA) on Financing Food Systems Transformation and Rural Revitalization: Opportunities and challenges** was held on 26 and 27 November 2024 at IFAD headquarters in Rome, Italy. The AGA engaged participants in exploring how innovative financing, along with better donor coordination and stakeholder engagement, can support more effective and efficient funding for food systems and rural development. Special sessions also focused on rural youth employment and land governance. To guide the discussions, the GDPRD prepared a [draft background paper and summary](#) to outline the critical gaps and opportunities for transforming food systems and rural development financing.

The Platform's four TWGs (Land Governance, Rural Youth Employment, the Sustainable Development Goal 2 "Zero Hunger" [SDG 2] Roadmap and Sustainable/Blended Finance) were active throughout the year, holding multiple meetings and webinars, and contributing to various international events and policy processes.

At the institutional level, the Platform welcomed new Co-Chairs: Bruce Campbell from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and Federica de Gaetano from the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation. The Platform also expanded its membership, welcoming two new members – the **United Nations Development Programme** and the **Global Agriculture and Food Security Program** – bringing the membership total to 43. Guided by the 2024 work plan, the Platform focused on several key areas: strengthening its strategic influencing capability, connecting the needs of Platform members, promoting a comprehensive results-based approach, enhancing the Secretariat's delivery capacity, and engaging with members through its online and social media platforms.

In 2025, the Platform will continue to advance the financing agenda for food systems and support its members in strategically engaging at the **Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4)** and other key global events, such as the Nutrition for Growth Summit, the second United Nations Food Systems Summit Stocktake and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change COP 30. Leading up to FfD4, the Platform will release a **white paper** focusing on **financing the transformation of food systems and revitalizing rural areas**. Additionally, a high-level strategic meeting will be organized to discuss actionable steps that donors can take in response to reforms in the international financial architecture for development.



2024 IN NUMBERS



1 These events include (i) 28 March 2024, "Donors as Investment Catalysts" webinar; (ii) 28 March 2024, "Agro-food Jobs for Youth in Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia" webinar; (iii) 26 June 2024, "Decoding the Fundamentals of Development Finance" webinar; (iv) 26 September 2024, "Financing Food and Rural Development" webinar; (v) 4 November 2024, "Jobs for Youth in the Agrifood Sector: Leveraging micro and small enterprises" webinar; (vi) 14 and 15 October 2024, Heads of Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Union meeting; (vii) 16 October 2024, Senior Managers Meeting; and (viii) 26 and 27 November 2024, AGA 2024.

2 The flagship publications include (i) *Annual Report 2023: Catalysing change and harmonizing impact – 20 years of donor coordination*; (ii) *2023 Annual General Assembly Meeting Highlights*; (iii) *Unleashing the Catalytic Power of Donor Financing to Achieve Sustainable Development Goal 2*; (iv) *Technical Note on Unleashing the Catalytic Power of Donor Financing to Achieve Sustainable Development Goal 2*; and (v) the 2024 AGA background paper *Financing Food Systems Transformation and Rural Revitalization: Opportunities and challenges*.

KEY EVENTS

February

GDPRD Board Meeting

March

TWG on Rural Youth Employment webinar on [Agro-food Jobs for Youth in Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia](#)

GDPRD, Marketlinks, and Smallholder and Agri-SME Finance and Investment Network webinar on [Donors as Investment Catalysts](#)

April

Release of the flagship report on [Unleashing the Catalytic Power of Donor Financing to Achieve Sustainable Development Goal 2](#) by GDPRD and Shamba Centre

June

GDPRD Board Meeting

GDPRD webinar on [Decoding the Fundamentals of Development Finance](#)

Release of the [Technical Note on Unleashing the Catalytic Power of Donor Financing to Achieve Sustainable Development Goal 2](#) by GDPRD and Shamba Centre

September

GDPRD and Shamba Centre webinar on [Financing Food and Rural Development](#)

October

GDPRD co-hosts the Heads of Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Union meeting

GDPRD Senior Managers Meeting

November

AGA 2024 on [Financing Food Systems Transformation and Rural Revitalization: Opportunities and challenges](#)

December

GDPRD Board Meeting

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO FINANCING THE FUTURE OF FOOD

REFLECTIONS FROM PLATFORM CO-CHAIRS

In 2024, the Platform welcomed new Co-Chairs Bruce Campbell (Switzerland) and Federica de Gaetano (Italy). The Co-Chairs were featured in the Devex Global Voices 2024 list for their opinion piece on How Blended Finance.

Can Catalyze Private Capital for Agriculture. The article advocates for three actions recommended by the Platform and Shamba Centre's joint enquiry and report: invest in the missing middle, enable DFIs to take more risks, and share knowledge and data. This recognition highlights the increasing significance of blended and innovative finance in food systems within the international development community, as well as the ongoing role and relevance of the GDPRD.



Bruce Campbell

Co-Chair, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation



Federica de Gaetano

Co-Chair, Italian Agency for Development Cooperation

“ Aid budgets are stretched thin and are unlikely to grow. This is why governments and development agencies need to maximize the impact of their available resources to attract commercial capital ... blended finance can work towards that goal.

We cannot overlook the fact that long-term official development assistance has created the foundations for blended finance. These grants support agrifood small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) as they survive, learn and mature to the level where they may eventually benefit from blended financing. They have created the conditions to enable SMEs and farmer organizations to reach the next level of growth and innovation.

Bold decisions are paramount to making agrifood development finance more affordable and accessible. As global food crises persist, it is imperative to use government aid strategically to catalyse additional investment. This approach promises to transform agrifood development finance, making it a potent tool for eradicating hunger and fostering sustainable development in low- and middle-income countries.

Devex Global Voices 2024

(How Blended Finance Can Catalyze Private Capital for Agriculture)

PLATFORM CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE 2024 STATE OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN THE WORLD REPORT

The 2024 SOFI report has sparked global discussion on addressing the financing gaps in food and nutrition. Alarming, the report reveals that, in 2023, nearly 733 million people faced hunger, equating to 1 in 11 globally. If current trends continue, by 2030, approximately 582 million people will be chronically undernourished. Access to safe and nutritious food continues to be out of reach for millions, especially women and children in rural and conflict-affected parts of the world. The report draws urgent attention to the need for governments, donors, the private sector and other actors to accelerate and scale up financing and investments in relation to ending hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity.

The GDPRD and Shamba Centre's joint enquiry and report served as a key contribution to the SOFI report. The Shamba Centre also contributed to the SOFI report by drafting a background paper on the discrepancies in current financing estimates for food security and nutrition, and facilitating and moderating the SOFI 2024 Financial Technical Advisory Committee. The authors of the SOFI report acknowledged the Platform's significant contribution to the development financing agenda.

DEVELOPMENT FINANCE 101 WEBINARS

In the lead-up to the 2024 AGA, the GDPRD organized a series of Development Finance 101 webinars to help donors and development actors better understand the core principles of development finance and different donor approaches. The first webinar, on Decoding the Fundamentals of Development Financing, was held on 26 June. The webinar featured speakers Marco V. Sánchez (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations [FAO]), Natalia Toschi (IFAD) and Mita Samani (Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office of the United Kingdom [FCDO]), and covered various topics, including funding mechanisms, international financial institutions and a preview of emerging messages from the 2024 SOFI report.

Following this, on 26 September, the Platform and Shamba Centre co-hosted a virtual briefing on the 2024 SOFI report and its implications for donors. The webinar on Financing Food and Rural Development featured speakers Attiya Waris (University of Nairobi and United Nations Independent Expert on Foreign Debt and Human Rights in 2021), Bruce Campbell (GDPRD Co-Chair and SDC), David Laborde (FAO), the Honourable Neema Lugangira (Member of Parliament, United Republic of Tanzania) and Oshani Perera (Shamba Centre). During the panel discussion, participants shared their innovative ideas for financing food and rural development.

The Development Finance 101 webinar series was positively received by attendees, sparking ideas and discussions on key emerging issues and directions in development finance, as well as the future of financing for food and nutrition.



2024 ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY HIGHLIGHTS

The 2024 AGA on Financing Food Systems Transformation and Rural Revitalization was held at IFAD headquarters in Rome, Italy, on 26 and 27 November. This year's AGA engaged participants, in person and virtually, in discussions on the opportunities and challenges of financing food systems transformation and rural revitalization. Building on the recommendations of the 2024 SOFI report, the AGA explored how innovative financing, including for rural youth employment and land governance, along with better donor coordination and stakeholder engagement, can support more effective and efficient funding for food systems and rural development.

Innovative financing approaches, along with traditional ODA, are crucial, particularly for agri-SMEs. Increasing private investment in rural areas is essential, with the public sector helping to mitigate risks.

Over one and a half days, the AGA sessions focused on the:

- constraints on and opportunities for **using ODA more catalytically**;
- lessons and opportunities for **incentivizing private sector investments**;
- range of **financing institutions, modalities and mechanisms** to enhance donor impact;
- progress on land governance, rural youth employment and data for SDG 2**, to support broader food systems transformation;
- strategic opportunities for the GDPRD and stakeholders** in food and rural development agendas.

Discussions at the AGA highlighted the significant investment potential in agriculture and rural development. Each dollar invested in agriculture can deliver substantial development impact and returns for investors. To realize these opportunities, especially in fragile contexts, donors should enhance aid efficiency and harmonize policies to ensure effective spending. Innovative financing approaches, along with traditional ODA, are crucial, particularly for agri-SMEs. Increasing private investment in rural areas is essential, with the public sector helping to mitigate risks. Ultimately, collaboration between public, private and international financing is vital for scaling investments in food systems and rural revitalization.

Building on insights from the AGA, the GDPRD will publish a white paper in 2025 focusing on financing food systems transformation and rural revitalization, addressing narratives, risk tolerance, innovative mechanisms, and trends such as digitalization and artificial intelligence (AI). The GDPRD published a short report summarizing the key discussions at the AGA in March 2025.

PLATFORM WORKSTREAMS: DRIVING STRATEGIC IMPACT

In 2024, the GDPRD made important progress in its three main workstreams, all focused on transforming food systems.

The donor coordination workstream supported members in their involvement with global events, starting with the pilot Global Coordination Gathering under the G7 Italian Presidency. This coordination will continue in 2025 to include board convenings around the G7 Canadian Presidency and FfD4.

The development finance workstream brought together donors to discuss sustainable and blended finance by creating a results-driven multi-donor working group. It also organized webinars, such as those on Decoding the Fundamentals of Development Finance and Financing Food and Development, to share ideas and knowledge on financing options and best practices for transforming food systems. These activities led up to the AGA, where participants discussed how to best use limited ODA for food and nutrition. This included looking at new ways to finance food systems, improving how donors work together and ensuring better cooperation with all stakeholders.

The data workstream, supported by the SDG 2 Roadmap Working Group and GDPRD's partnership with Hesat2030, worked to promote evidence-based learning for better data usage and explore how AI can affect agrifood systems. In addition, the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, the European Centre for Development Policy Management and Southern Voice put forward a proposal for the GDPRD to lead a scoping exercise to explore options for strengthened low-income country participation in United Nations Rome-based agency processes, and improved coordination mechanisms between country- and global-level food systems actors.

In 2024, the GDPRD made important progress in its three main workstreams, all focused on transforming food systems.

OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS

In 2024, the GDPRD strengthened its outreach and communication efforts with members and the development community.

The goal was to align the Platform's engagement and knowledge products with global priorities and key themes. The Platform expanded its reach through social media, deepened our understanding of audience needs, and enhanced our advocacy and knowledge management tools. The GDPRD website continues to be a repository of information, knowledge products, events, interviews, podcasts and other media on agriculture, food and rural development.

To highlight the work and contributions of members, the Platform featured 19 expert and new member interviews in the [Meet Our Members](#) interview series. In addition, the miniseries on IFAD's [Farms. Food. Future.](#) podcast featured 10 conversations with experts, practitioners and thought leaders in rural development and food systems. The [website](#) now features dedicated knowledge hubs on land governance, rural youth employment, the SDG 2 roadmap and the new TWG on Sustainable/Blended Finance. In a major step towards sustainability, the launch of the 2023 Annual Report marked a full digital transformation of the GDPRD. Going forward, all new GDPRD publications will be 100 per cent digital.

In 2024, the GDPRD released the new [Food Systems Architecture Database](#) – an interactive information base that illustrates the international architecture of organizations and key initiatives working on food systems and agricultural development. The [Food Systems Recommendations Database](#) continues to grow as a microsite, with 59 reports, 2,109 recommendations and a dashboard spotlighting the latest and trending reports.

Web and user engagement increased significantly in 2024, with a more than 80 per cent increase in monthly average site visitors and a 36 per cent increase in monthly average page views compared with 2023. The Platform continues to attract new followers and increase its online user interaction through our social media channels on Instagram, LinkedIn and X (formerly Twitter). The e-update newsletters have also seen increased open and click rates.³

³ In 2024, the open rate was 36.8 per cent and the click rate was 4.7 per cent.

COMMUNICATION HIGHLIGHTS

19 member interviews

5 flagship reports

8 events

10 podcasts

FOOD SYSTEMS ARCHITECTURE DATABASE launched

FOOD SYSTEMS RECOMMENDATIONS DATABASE

expanded to 59 reports and 2,109 recommendations

Paperless environment

WEB AND SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

WEBSITE

69,687 visits

165,290 page views

2,774 hours spent

LINKEDIN

239% increase in visitors

59% increase in followers

INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS

almost doubled



THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS

The Platform's four TWGs continue to engage members and the international community in dialogue on critical and emerging issues in the areas of sustainable/blended finance, rural youth employment, land governance and SDG 2 "Zero Hunger".

-  The **TWG on Sustainable/Blended Finance for Food Systems**, established in 2024, provides a forum for donors, donor organizations and impact funds to share data and knowledge on blended and sustainable finance for better collaboration and coordination.
-  The **Global Donor Working Group on Land (GDWGL)**, established in 2013, strives to ensure the recognition of the land rights of groups and individuals, as a cornerstone of sustainable, equitable and inclusive development.
-  The **TWG on Rural Youth Employment**, established in 2018, seeks to support and empower rural youth to enable their contributions to rural economies.
-  The **SDG 2 Roadmap Working Group**, founded in 2019, fosters collaboration between donors who share a common vision for eliminating rural poverty, hunger and malnutrition.

SUSTAINABLE/ BLENDED FINANCE FOR FOOD SYSTEMS

Tuleen Alkhoffash

IFAD, Co-Chair

Songbae Lee

United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Co-Chair (currently on hold)

Current development finance is insufficient to fill the estimated US\$33 billion to US\$50 billion per year public investment gap in the financing needed to achieve SDG 2 by 2030. Every dollar of concessional finance can mobilize four dollars of commercial finance. Whether those four dollars deliver a sustainable development impact will determine if blended finance can bring both financial and development additionality.

The **TWG on Sustainable/Blended Finance for Food Systems** brings together representatives of donors, donor organizations and impact funds to share data and knowledge on blended and sustainable finance for better collaboration and coordination. The overall goal of the TWG is to increase transparency, develop benchmarks, and build the evidence that will lead to better decision-making and more effective allocation of scarce donor dollars.

The TWG was officially launched with its inaugural virtual meeting in April 2024, bringing together over 25 participants from bilateral and multilateral agencies, DFIs, impact investors and academia. The TWG aims to promote data and knowledge exchange, facilitate co-financing opportunities, advocate for increased blending in agriculture and rural development, and develop tools to support donor decision-making.

Tuleen Alkhoffash (IFAD) and Songbae Lee (USAID) were nominated as **Co-Chairs for the first two years**, with **academic guidance** from Sabine Desczka (Wageningen University and Research). The group will operate on a financially self-sustaining basis through voluntary contributions from its members. To support its mission, a **webpage** and **knowledge hub** were launched on the GDPRD website, housing foundational documents, meeting minutes and a resource section on sustainable/blended finance.

The TWG has identified four key focus areas for its work.

- 1 Facilitate conversations on decision-making, risk appetite and investor engagement to bridge the knowledge gap between donors and partners.
- 2 Address donor data needs, including harmonization, breaking down silos and establishing consistent monitoring and evaluation practices.
- 3 Host knowledge-sharing events such as webinars and round tables to present reports and discuss blended finance and impact investment.
- 4 Establish regular engagement with the DFI Working Group on Blended Concessional Finance for Private Sector Projects.

As one of its first initiatives, the TWG partnered with the Agri-SME Learning Collective to develop a new [Catalytic Capital Framework](#). This framework, designed to establish harmonized standards and benchmarks for catalytic capital, is focusing on guarantees and first-loss mechanisms in its first year. Testing is under way with two parallel cohorts: one for practitioner members of the Agri-SME Learning Collective, and another for donors, including USAID, FCDO, Global Affairs Canada, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation and SDC, with plans to expand testing to multilateral agencies.

The group held three meetings during the year and actively engaged in enhancing its profile by participating in significant global events. In December 2024, Maurizio Navarra, GDPRD Coordinator, and Tuleen Alkhoffash, Co-Chair of the TWG on Sustainable/Blended Finance at IFAD, attended the [Building Bridges: Aligning finance with sustainability](#) event in Switzerland.

Looking ahead to 2025, the TWG plans to review emerging findings from the pilot testing and refine the framework based on lessons learned. The group will revise the terms of reference to incorporate emerging priorities alongside celebrating the group's one-year anniversary, onboarding new donor participants and exploring the role of AI in data collection and forecasting.

“ We needed a group that could build a bridge between the donor community, United Nations organizations, impact investors and philanthropists, as we can be very disconnected from each other.

Tuleen Alkhoffash

IFAD, Co-Chair



“ For blended finance to have a transformational impact, it must show evidence of how it works to eventually influence government policies. Most of that gap will need government involvement to fully address the issue.

Songbae Lee

USAID, Co-Chair



RURAL YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

Elisenda Estruch Puertas

International Labour Organization (ILO),
Co-Chair

Ji-Yeun Rim

Organisation for Economic Co-Operation
and Development (OECD), Co-Chair

Youth account for one out of every six people worldwide. Rural young people make up over half of the global youth population. Investing in sustainable agrifood systems and green economies could create decent employment for young women and men, particularly those living in rural areas.

The **TWG on Rural Youth Employment** facilitates donor collaboration and guides donors, governments and civil society organizations on effective strategies for creating decent employment opportunities for rural youth. The group aims to support rural youth in benefiting from and contributing to more sustainable and inclusive agrifood systems and productive rural economies.

Members of the TWG on Rural Youth Employment include international and regional organizations, donors, private sector actors and youth networks. The group serves as a space for its members to discuss technical issues, generate new ideas and advance the policy agenda on topics such as green jobs for rural youth.

The group's 2024 work plan focuses on five outcome areas.

- 1 Improved alignment with and a stronger link to international policy processes, initiatives and platforms.
- 2 Increased strategic coherence and coordination among donors, development agencies, and national and local institutions.
- 3 Evaluation and co-creation of innovative donor approaches to boost decent rural youth employment across their operations.
- 4 Strategic engagement with and empowerment of rural youth and youth organizations.
- 5 Collaboration with stakeholders such as the private sector, service providers and agripreneur organizations.

In 2024, the TWG on Rural Youth Employment organized four meetings and two webinars on Agro-food Jobs for Youth in Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia in March and Jobs for Youth in the Agrifood Sector: Leveraging micro and small enterprises in November.

The group contributed to the independent memoranda for the development of the Post-Malabo Comprehensive Africa Development Programme agenda and hosted a special session at the 2024 AGA on Innovative Financing Approaches for Young Agripreneurs. The AGA session brought together young agripreneurs from Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda, along with an investment leader from the One Acre Fund, to discuss financing models that support rural youth employment and entrepreneurship.

Membership and collaboration saw notable growth, with the addition of the One Acre Fund and the Islamic Development Bank to the group. Engagement with key stakeholders, including the African Union Commission, youth organizations and research networks, was strengthened. Contributions from the One Acre Fund and Foresight4Food provided valuable insights.

The year marked a transition in leadership, as Elisenda Estruch Puertas (ILO), concluded her tenure as Co-Chair. Genna Tesdall (Young Professionals for Agricultural Development), was approved as the incoming Co-Chair for 2025–2027, joining Ji-Yeun Rim (OECD) as Co-Chair in leading the group’s initiatives.

Looking ahead to 2025, a key priority will be to increase meaningful youth engagement on issues such as financing for food systems transformation; resilient jobs beyond climate adaptation; youth involvement in global food supply chains; work to address the high rate of rural young women not in employment, education or training; and broader inclusion of underrepresented groups, including individuals with disabilities and those in younger age brackets (15–17 years). The TWG plans to continue in-depth discussions in its regular quarterly meetings and webinars, and organize a rural youth employment session in the 2025 AGA. Additionally, continued contributions to international policy processes will remain a priority. The group will also seek to expand its [knowledge hub](#) and enhance collaboration with the other TWGs of the GDPRD.

“ When we look at the news, the world can seem overwhelming, but my optimism is sustained by the youth themselves. I am reassured having met champions within governments and civil society organizations who are dedicated to the cause of youth well-being.

Ji-Yeun Rim

OECD, Co-Chair



“ It is essential to engage youth as we discuss efforts to advance a just transition in food systems and rural economic activities. Failing to do so could be a source of intergenerational inequalities and fuel growing discontent or a sense of injustice.

Elisenda Estruch Puertas

ILO, Co-Chair



LAND GOVERNANCE

Ward Anseeuw

FAO, Chair

Land is one of the most valuable resources a rural family can own or have access to, to secure their livelihood. Secure land rights can contribute to social inclusion, help protect human rights, and support climate change adaptation and mitigation.

The **GDWGL** is a network of 29 bilateral and multilateral donors and international organizations collaborating on land-related issues worldwide. The group focuses on three priority areas: land tenure and resource governance, country-level coordination, and the intersection of land governance and food systems. The GDWGL has played a key role in advocating for the *Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security*, and in ensuring the inclusion of land indicators in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In 2024, the GDWGL held four meetings and convened in person during the World Bank Land Conference in Washington, D.C., on 12 May, where members established three broad objectives for their ongoing activities and priorities for their 2024–2026 work plan.

These include:

- 1 enhancing collaboration among members and strengthening the GDWGL platform to align activities for greater impact;
- 2 prioritizing global advocacy to elevate land issues on the policy agenda through key international frameworks (e.g. the Committee on Food Security, Convention on Biological Diversity, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change), and ensuring GDWGL representation on the steering committees of the Global Land Observatory and the Global Land Agenda;
- 3 improving country-level coordination by fostering in-country collaboration and developing an online tracker for GDWGL land projects.

During the year, Ward Anseeuw (FAO), assumed the role of GDWGL Chair, succeeding Gemma Betsema (the Netherlands Enterprise and Development Agency), and will lead the group for the next two years. The GDWGL organized a special session at the 2024 AGA on Reaching Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities through Enhanced Finance. The session brought together speakers from the Christensen Fund, FAO, IFAD, FCDO, the Network of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities for the Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa, and the International Land Coalition to discuss inclusive financing strategies for Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Additionally, the group discussed the upcoming 2025 review of the SDG global indicator framework and the SDG Indicators Data Platform, where FAO serves as the custodian agency,

exploring how the GDWGL can support land-related SDG indicators. The group also facilitated discussions on and with representatives from the Rio Conventions, Convention on Biological Diversity and United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, to ensure a reinforced, broader and better-coordinated approach to change across sectors. The GDWGL continued to add new resources and updates on land governance issues to its [knowledge hub](#) on the Platform's website.

These efforts underscore the GDWGL's commitment to strengthening land governance, improving financial accessibility and ensuring land remains a central focus in global policy discussions.

“ Land is central to all aspects related to food systems transformation and rural development, whether from an economic, political, environmental, social, health or justice perspective. There is a need to scale up and mainstream land policies, and, to do so, we need to work better together. We need better collaboration at all levels, from global to national to local. The working group on land, which is a coordination platform mainly consisting of donors, is very instrumental to that.

Ward Anseeuw

FAO, Chair



SDG 2 ROADMAP WORKING GROUP

Ammad Bahalim

Gates Foundation, Co-Chair

Chris Hillbruner

USAID, Co-Chair

More than 600 million people will remain chronically hungry worldwide by 2030. Achieving SDG 2 (“Zero Hunger”) by 2030 will require sustained commitment, investment and collaboration by governments, donors, the private sector, civil society organizations and other actors at the global, regional and national levels.

The **SDG 2 Roadmap Working Group** is an informal group of senior officials from different donor agencies that share a common vision for eliminating rural poverty, hunger and malnutrition through sustainable agriculture-led growth that does not exceed planetary boundaries. Co-chaired by the Gates Foundation and USAID, the TWG works towards developing consensus among donors on a roadmap for achieving SDG 2, while recognizing the multiple linkages with other SDGs.

In 2024, the TWG revised its *Theory of Change* and *Terms of Reference* to include a specific emphasis on addressing climate change and the Paris Agreement's 1.5° C target. After serving a two-year term, Sung Lee from USAID stepped down from the role of Co-Chair. Members expressed their gratitude for his dedication and contributions to the TWG.

Throughout the year, the TWG held three meetings and continued to expand its [knowledge hub](#) on the Platform's website, providing members with access to key updates, knowledge products and event information. The group considered a proposal by the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, the European Centre for Development Policy Management and Southern Voice for a 12-month research- and dialogue-based scoping project. This initiative aims to explore options for strengthened low-income country participation in United Nations Rome-based agency processes, and improved coordination mechanisms between country- and global-level food systems actors.

The TWG also explored the feasibility of a common learning agenda, building on the work of the Juno Evidence Alliance. A new stakeholder engagement process was proposed for a technical working group comprising funders and technical partners, focused on enhancing evidence-based decision-making, particularly in the use of AI models. The initiative aims to clarify priorities, identify key learning areas and promote more effective data-driven decision-making.

These efforts reflect the SDG 2 Roadmap Working Group's broader mission to facilitate greater coordination, knowledge-sharing and strategic alignment among donors to accelerate progress towards sustainable, climate-resilient food systems and the achievement of SDG 2.

“ Working together to solve a common challenge is the spirit of this group and now more than ever it is essential to put our collective resources to their most effective use.

Ammad Bahalim

Gates Foundation, Co-Chair





LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025

2025 will be a critical year for global discussions on financing for development, as donors and other development actors gather in Spain for FfD4 in June.

This conference presents an opportunity for the international community to reassess the goals and commitments established under the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and to discuss financing for development from 2030 and beyond.

Building on the Platform's activities in 2024, the GDPRD will continue to promote the financing agenda for food systems and support its members in strategically engaging at FfD4 and other key global events.

Building on the Platform's activities in 2024, the GDPRD will continue to **promote the financing agenda for food systems and support its members in strategically engaging at FfD4 and other key global events.** These events include the Nutrition for Growth Summit, the second United Nations Food Systems Summit Stocktaking Moment and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change COP 30.⁴ In preparation for these summits, the Platform will release a white paper focused on financing the transformation of food systems and revitalizing rural areas. Additionally, we will organize a high-level strategic meeting to discuss actionable steps that donors can take in response to reforms in the international financial architecture for development.

⁴ Notably, the Platform has prepared a [briefing paper](#) for the 2025 Nutrition for Growth Summit in Paris. The paper builds on insights from 2024 AGA, emphasizing innovative financing approaches that align public, private and development finance to scale impact.

The **Platform's new strategic plan for 2026–2030** will be developed in 2025, with Board member consultations scheduled from April to September and approval by the end of 2025 or the beginning of 2026.

The 2025 work plan will focus on three main areas.

1 New models of ODA and financial architecture reform: the workstream will address harmonization, innovation, private investment in fragile contexts and developing infrastructure ecosystems. It will prepare for high-level events, including FfD4, and engage non-traditional donors.

2 Digitalization and AI in food systems: the workstream will organize webinars and dialogues on donor-centric solutions, linking with the SDG 2 Roadmap Working Group and other themes, where relevant.

3 Value for money in a shrinking funding environment: the theme will explore how donors can achieve value for money in an increasingly politically and financially constrained environment.

The GDPRD is committed to maintaining the Platform as an informal space that fosters dialogue, discussion, and the sharing of data and technical information valued by our members. As we approach 2025, we look forward to continuing to meet the needs of our members and the broader development community, while upholding our commitment to sharing the latest knowledge, information and insights related to food, agriculture and rural development.

The GDPRD is committed to maintaining the Platform as an informal space that fosters dialogue, discussion, and the sharing of data and technical information valued by our members.



ANNEX I

LIST OF PLATFORM MEMBERS IN 2024

African Development Bank Group

Asian Development Bank

Austrian Development Agency

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit

Enabel, the Belgian development agency

European Commission*

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany*

Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, Austria

Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, Belgium

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, United Kingdom*

French Development Agency*

Gates Foundation*

The Global Agriculture and Food Security Program**

Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

Inter-American Development Bank

International Development Research Centre, Canada

International Fund for Agricultural Development

International Trade Centre

Irish Aid, Department of Foreign Affairs*

Italian Agency for Development Cooperation*

KfW Development Bank

Korea International Cooperation Agency

Luxembourg Development Cooperation Agency

Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, France*

Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland*

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of the Netherlands*

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, Spain

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation*

United Nations Development Programme**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

United States Agency for International Development*

UN Women

World Bank

World Food Programme

World Rural Forum

World Trade Organization

* Board member

** New member in 2024

ANNEX II

CONTRIBUTIONS

Donor	Net contributions received (€) (net of management fees)
European Union	46 500
Finland	46 000
France	46 000
Gates Foundation	46 856
Germany	49 387
IFAD	50 000
Ireland	46 000
Italy	46 000
Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	46 000
Switzerland	46 000
United Kingdom	53 848
United States	106 929*
Total contributions received	629 520

* Includes one year of membership fees (US\$55,000), one year of SDG 2 roadmap support (US\$50,000) and one year of GDWGL support (US\$25,000).

ANNEX III

SECRETARIAT 2024 EXPENDITURE, BY CATEGORY

Category	Amount (€)
Regular staff costs (includes interns)	353 970
Consultancies and other expenses in support of workstreams	170 941
AGA-related expenses	18 551
Other event-related expenses	2 826
Communications	20 499
IT/administration	5 340
Staff and AGA guest travel	11 232
Grand total	583 359



**Global Donor
Platform for
Rural Development**

**Secretariat of the Global Donor
Platform for Rural Development**
hosted by the International Fund
for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Via Paolo di Dono 44
00142 Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 5459 2512
Email: secretariat@donorplatform.org
www.donorplatform.org

June 2025

