



A Webinar by the Thematic Working Group on Rural Youth Employment of the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development

Development Finance for Youth in a Changing Landscape

CONCEPT NOTE

Tuesday 07 October 2025, 15:00-16:15 CET

[Zoom registration](#)

1. Background

Amid reductions in development aid and shifting donor priorities, the development community faces increasing pressure to adapt while continuing to serve the needs of its stakeholders. The OECD projects a 9–17% drop in net official development assistance (ODA) in 2025, following a 9% decline in 2024¹. This projected decline, equivalent to approximately US\$ 35 billion, is largely driven by cuts announced by four major ODA providers: France, Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Long-term trends are equally concerning: between 1990 and 2022, the share of European Commission aid directed to least developed countries (LDCs) fell from 52% to 19%². Even more drastically, 83% of USAID programmes were cut in the first half 2025³.

As conflicts intensify and hunger rises, the need for development aid, and its core purpose of alleviating poverty and improving livelihoods, remains undiminished. Youth face critical challenges, especially in Africa, where demographic pressures are high, wage employment opportunities are limited and formal job creation is insufficient in providing access to decent work. Many young people continue to work in low-quality jobs due to weak enforcement of labour standards, leaving them among the working poor.

2. Objectives

This webinar aims to explore how emerging financing mechanisms can contribute to youth employment creation. It will examine the comparative advantage of new financing schemes such as green bonds, green loans, climate funds and carbon credits, with particular attention to their potential impact on

¹OECD (2025), “Cuts in official development assistance: OECD projections for 2025 and the near term”, OECD Policy Briefs, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/8c530629-en>.

² <https://www.devex.com/news/eu-aid-to-least-developed-countries-is-trending-way-down-108620>

³ [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/de/document/EPRS_ATA\(2025\)769540](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/de/document/EPRS_ATA(2025)769540)

youth.

3. Provisional Agenda

15 April 2025 (online event)

15:00 – 15:05 (CET) **Welcome and Introduction**
(5 min) - **Genna Tesdall**, TWG RYE Co-Chair (Moderator)

15:05 – 15:15 (CET) **Scene setting: Global Development Finance Trends**
(10 min) - **Savis Sadeghian**, Senior Technical Expert on Multilateral Climate and Environmental Funds, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

15:15 – 15:55 (CET) **Innovation in Development Finance**
(40 min) - **Peter Umunay**, Thematic Lead, Food Systems and Land Use, Global Environmental Facility (GEF)
 - **Andreas Muller**, Thematic Lead for Innovative Finance, Helvetas
 - **Aminul Moven**, Agricultural Economist and Director of Climate Change & Risk Mitigation, Sustainable Agriculture Foundation (SAF) Bangladesh

15:55 – 16:10 (CET) **Q&A**
(15 min)

16:10 – 16:15 (CET) **Wrap-up and Closing**
(5 min) TWG RYE Co-Chairs

The [Thematic Working Group on Rural Youth Employment](#) (TWG RYE) was established following the 2018 Annual General Assembly of the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development, which was entirely dedicated to empowering rural youth. The TWG RYE brings together donors, development practitioners and youth organizations to share knowledge and promote strategies that create decent employment opportunities and empower youth to contribute to and benefit from sustainable rural livelihoods.