

DONOR ENGAGEMENT WITH RURAL YOUTH

COMPENDIUM

Prepared for the
Global Donor Platform for Rural Development

Maria Lee
May 2018



Global Donor Platform
for Rural Development

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Background

The [Global Donor Platform for Rural Development](#)¹ (GDPRD) provides a forum to support knowledge sharing and synergies among donor and development agencies for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and an inclusive rural transformation process.

Many members of the platform are increasingly prioritising youth employment. This is visible through debates and initiatives such as the 'G20 Initiative for Rural Youth Employment' and the integration of youth issues in strategic frameworks.

The linkages between the future of agriculture, the transformation of rural spaces and the need to provide youth with the conditions for a decent and meaningful life, raise many questions about the role that donors can play. This has led the Platform members to choose the topic of **Rural Youth Empowerment** for this year's General Assembly.

The present compendium has been prepared in this context. It draws on direct interviews with 20 Platform members, as well as a desk review of documentation shared by members, recent publications and conference reports on the subject of rural

youth and youth employment. The author and the Platform secretariat are grateful to all those that contributed to this document with their time and valuable inputs.

The objective is to provide a better understanding of how Platform members engage with youth and rural youth in particular, but also to inspire and support discussions on how to move forward collectively.

The compendium is structured in two sections. The first section presents the main findings on trends and approaches used by member organisations to engage with youth in developing countries, as well as remaining gaps and open questions. The second section is a snapshot of members' engagement, including some examples provided by each member of programmes and lessons learned.

Acronyms

ADA	Austrian Development Agency
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AFD	French Development Agency
AfDB	African Development Bank
AICS	Italian Agency for Development Cooperation
BMZ	Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (Germany)
CGJ	Compact for Growth and Jobs
DANIDA	Denmark Development Cooperation Agency
DFAT	Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DFID	UK Department for International Development
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GAFSP	Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme
GIZ	German Development Agency
ICT	Information and communications technology
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
ITC	International Trade Centre
KfW	German Development Bank
LuxDev	Luxembourg Development Cooperation Agency
MSMEs	Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PPP	Public-private partnership
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SMEs	Small and medium-sized enterprises
SRHR	Sexual and reproductive health rights
TVET	Technical and vocational education and training
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VCA4D	Value Chain Analysis for Development
WB	World Bank

SECTION I

Summary findings

Trends and new approaches

1. The momentum on rural youth is increasing with varying levels of engagement

More policies and strategies include youth issues...

At the 2017 G20 Summit, heads of state agreed on a [Rural Youth Employment initiative](#)ⁱⁱ, thereby setting a clear political commitment to enhance efforts towards youth empowerment in rural areas. Youth are clearly at the heart of the future of agriculture, food production and rural development. Eight members of the 20 interviewed mentioned the existence of a specific policy or framework focusing on youth/rural youth in developing countries, e.g.:

- ▶ the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) added rural youth as one of its corporate priorities in its [Strategic Framework 2016-2025](#)ⁱⁱⁱ,
- ▶ the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has a [Decent Rural Employment framework](#)^{iv}, which has rural youth at its core,
- ▶ the African Development Bank (AfDB) developed a [Jobs for Youth in Africa strategy 2016-2025](#)^v,
- ▶ the Asian Development Bank (ADB) is mainstreaming youth across its operations through the [Youth for Asia initiative](#)^{vi},
- ▶ the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) designed a [Youth Agenda: putting young people at the heart of development](#)^{vii},
- ▶ Denmark Development Cooperation Agency (DANIDA) included youth as a priority in its new overarching strategy [The World 2030](#)^{viii},
- ▶ the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) launched a [Youth in Development Policy](#)^{ix} in 2012, and
- ▶ the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs developed a [policy paper 'Acting for Youth'](#)^x with a focus on rural development.

For other members, engaging with rural youth is part of a larger social inclusiveness or inclusive

pro-poor strategy applied to rural development and employment programmes.

Some of the Platform members are taking specific steps to institutionalise youth consultation in their programmes (e.g. IFAD upcoming Youth Advisory Council, [AfDB Presidential Youth Advisory Group](#)^{xi}). The work done on gender mainstreaming may also inspire pathways to applying a youth lens across a donor's portfolio (e.g. Australia's approach for including a gender perspective in a development strategy¹).

However, specifically linking youth empowerment with rural development is still quite new for many donors

Programmes targeting rural areas and youth as beneficiaries are managed by different departments of an organisation, with a range of entry points, e.g. education, employment, livelihoods, health and SRHR², and civic engagement. Nevertheless, rural development programmes are currently largely youth-blind and lack age-disaggregated data. Efforts to accelerate agricultural growth have often been separated from those to create jobs for young people. Some organisations have developed or are developing specific tools to overcome this situation, e.g. [FAO's Youth Employment in Agriculture Module](#)^{xii} and [IFAD's guidance note on designing programmes that improve young rural people's livelihoods](#)^{xiii}. USAID is currently finalising a 'Feed the Future project design guide for youth-inclusive agriculture and food systems' to assist staff and implementing partners in thinking through ways to engage youth throughout the USAID programme cycle. Finally, as part of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) 'Youth Inclusion' project, a practical toolkit will

1 The Australian Government has set a target that at least 80 per cent of investments, regardless of their primary objectives, must also effectively address gender issues in their implementation. <http://dfat.gov.au/aid/topics/investment-priorities/gender-equality-empowering-women-girls/gender-equality/Pages/australias-assistance-for-gender-equality.aspx>

2 Sexual and reproductive health rights.

be prepared to assist the EU and development cooperation agencies on how to better support youth inclusion even when they do not have a specific focus on rural development.

The geographical focus is largely on Africa, with increased attention given to fragile states and young refugees

The focus of most donors and development organisations remains on Africa, where the number of youth will continue to increase until 2030 or 2040 and where a large percentage of the population still lives in rural areas³. Donors such as the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the ADB prioritise interventions in the Asia and Pacific region. In the context of humanitarian, migration and refugee crises, some donors (e.g. the International Trade Centre (ITC), the Italian International Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), the German Development Bank (KfW) and FAO) mentioned directing increased attention to young refugees and youth in fragile states with interventions that may include food-for-work, employment and re-insertion, and psychological support.

2. There is growing recognition of the diversity of youth and the importance of engaging with them as partners

Understanding the diversity of youth and providing special support to young women

There is growing understanding that young women and men face diverse and complex realities (based on gender, age, poverty and education levels, social norms, rural settings, etc.), which in turn calls for tailored interventions. Some programmes intentionally target young graduates while others target poorest groups. There are usually particular efforts to include young women in such programmes or through dedicated initiatives (e.g. the World Bank's [Adolescent Girls Initiative](#)^{xv}). Approaches such as the

FAO's Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools^{xvi} promote, when possible, equal inclusion of young rural women and men. Some organisations (e.g. DANIDA, DFID, and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)) mentioned their work in support of family planning and sexual and reproductive health as being essential for young women's empowerment. The issue of time poverty among rural young women due to their household duties is rarely mentioned.

Developing new ways of collaborating with rural youth, as partners and innovators

It is commonly recognised that youth need to participate in project design and implementation to ensure the relevance and sustainability of interventions. This engagement can take different forms beyond consultation processes: contractual arrangements with youth organisations to draw on their expertise (e.g. FAO partners with a youth organisation in Senegal for the conceptualisation and technical setup of a web-based 'National Observatory of Rural Employment'); training young people to be local extension advisors and promoters of innovative agricultural practices (e.g. USAID, IFAD, FAO); supporting linkages between students and farmers (e.g. Programme [Agrinovia](#)⁴ in Burkina Faso supported by AICS and IFAD to enhance the co-design of rural innovations while valuing local know-how, and the ADB 'Youth in Asia' initiative).


Moving from an employment to an empowerment perspective

Youth employment programmes usually combine a mix of interventions aiming at enhancing youth employability and/or self-employment within the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors; in rural settings there is often a greater focus on self-employment. Separate programmes engage with youth in other areas such health, education and civil engagement. The increasing focus on youth aspirations and empowerment

³ The estimated proportion of the population living in rural areas is about 68 per cent in South Asia and 63 per cent in Sub-Saharan Africa (UNFPA, 2014).

⁴ <http://www.agrinovia.net>





is questioning approaches that are often segmented and do not adequately reflect the diverse realities of rural youth. Recent surveys (e.g. 2017 *OECD Youth Aspirations and the Reality of Jobs in Developing Countries*^{xvii}, 2017 BMZ/GIZ survey on *Rural Perceptions of the Young Generation in Sub-Saharan Africa*) indicate that the environment in which they are situated influences youth aspirations. Rural young people tend to have lower aspirations and expectations compared to their urban counterparts. Results on youth interest to engage in agriculture are mixed. Most youth indicate a preference to work in sectors other than agriculture. However, working in agriculture or its upstream or downstream sectors is considered an option for some (more than expected) under certain conditions including profitability, modernisation and the need to change the image of agriculture.

3. Creating conditions and incentives for young people who ‘decide’ to be agripreneurs

Making agriculture more attractive for youth

While the number of people engaged in the agricultural sector has been decreasing in many countries, agriculture will continue to be an important source of rural employment, particularly in Africa. However, agriculture will only be attractive for youth if it is profitable. There is also a need to change the perception of farming. Many organisations highlighted the importance of role models and are showcasing stories of successful young farmers through different media (e.g. radio/TV programmes, Facebook, blogs) and through national contests that celebrate successful young farmers (e.g. FAO, IFAD, AfDB). In this way, they present agriculture as a business rather than a subsistence activity. The importance of creating this awareness already at primary and secondary school is also mentioned and examples of initiatives that do so are school gardens or the *AGRIman*^{xviii} initiative that raises awareness about agriculture and food security in schools. Farmers’ organisations and youth organisations can also play an important

role in changing the perception of agriculture (e.g. Caribbean Farmers Network, MIJARC⁵, and PAKISAMA⁶). The approach of Farmer Business Schools (FAO, GIZ), while not specifically targeting youth, has also proven successful in developing agriculture as a business. Finally, low cost and innovative technologies that increase agricultural productivity, reduce the drudgery of work and facilitate access to markets (e.g. small-scale mechanisation, greenhouses, and information and communications technology (ICT)) can help to attract young people.

Gaining access to ‘enough’ land remains a challenge

Young farmers are expected to wait until adulthood to access land through inheritance or communal systems. An associated problem is that the subdivision of land among siblings often leads to fragmented and unviable parcels. Young women face even more barriers to owning land and controlling its use. Some programmes tackle the land issue by establishing leasing agreements with local authorities or cooperatives to allocate a certain amount of land to youth (e.g. FAO, IFAD). Another option is to facilitate the intergenerational transfer of land through loans that assist youth in acquiring land and youth-tailored land leasing arrangements. In the Philippines, farmers’ organisations such as PAKISAMA are calling for the strengthening of innovative programmes, e.g. the ‘Farm takeover’ that will provide capital to young farmers to buy their parents’ lands (Project of *Magna Carta for young farmers*^{xix}). IFAD’s *Land Tenure Toolkit*^{xx} presents different approaches to facilitate youth access to land, e.g. through cooperatives, family transfer intra-vivos with sales agreements and distribution by the State. Finally, the guidebook on *Youth and Land Responsiveness Criteria*^{xxi} of the Global Land Tool Network provides guidance on how to increase the integration of youth perspectives into land matters at both institutional and programme levels. It is also interesting to

5 The international Movement of Catholic Agricultural and Rural Youth.

6 <http://www.pakisama.com/>

note that new solutions adapted to small plots, e.g. small greenhouses and vertical garden systems⁷, are being developed and tested by young people.

Promoting self-employment and agri-preneurship is a major pathway for rural youth but there is a need to better understand conditions for success

The promotion of self-employment and entrepreneurship is often favoured in rural contexts where opportunities for wage jobs are scarce. However, evaluations of some of programmes that do this indicate mixed results. For instance, in some cases only a small portion of young entrepreneurs in developing countries succeed—usually those with a higher level of education who have access to finance and operate in the formal market (OECD Youth Inclusion Project). Some programmes intentionally target graduates for the development of agribusinesses that have the potential to create more jobs (AfDB's [ENABLE Youth](#)^{xxii} programme, [IITA Youth Agripreneurs programme](#)^{xxiii}). Others focus on non-graduates and promote self-employment and youth agricultural cooperatives ([FAO private and public partnership model for youth employment in agriculture](#)^{xxiv}). An IFAD supported programme in Nigeria⁸ assists dynamic university graduates who own and run small-scale agricultural enterprises ([N-Agripreneurs](#)^{xxv}) to act as intermediaries between small-scale market-oriented farmers, mostly youth, and large-scale agro-industries and wholesalers. Most programmes combine different types of support including skills development and some form of mentorship or coaching, seed capital, and access to markets. This combination of interventions makes it difficult to draw general conclusions on what works for agri-preneurs. However, proper programme design and targeting appear to be crucial elements for success. Follow-up support over time,

through mentoring and incubation to develop an entrepreneurial mindset, and proper market analysis are also identified as important features.

Developing financial products and services adapted to youth and the agricultural sector

Banks often still consider financing agriculture to be too risky. Moreover, the terms and conditions for accessing loans are generally not conducive for small-scale farmers and even less so for young farmers and young women (due to lack of collateral, repayments not taking into account the agricultural season or income volatility). The types of financial products offered to rural youth through employment programmes may include grants, subsidised loans, micro-loans and micro-insurance, and guarantees. In some cases, producers' organisations have facilitated youth access to credit (e.g. FAO PPP model for youth employment in agriculture). Access to finance is often combined with financial literacy and non-financial services (such as business education and entrepreneurship training). Certain programmes include a component for building the capacity of financial institutions to develop and deliver youth-inclusive financial services in rural areas (e.g. IFAD in Yemen). The [MasterCard Foundation](#)^{xxvi} has been testing a range of approaches to improve youth financial inclusion. One of them is based on a youth segmentation model, which looks at the needs of different age groups (young adults, adolescents, under 18) and their location. More generally, the Foundation believes that digital financial services for all will lead to youth financial inclusion. Beyond promoting financial inclusion and education for youth, the Foundation has developed a broader strategy to support youth employment in Africa. This includes: supporting skills development based on a better understanding of the transformation of rural and local economies; supporting young people to come together; network and design solutions (Youth Think Tank⁹),

7 <http://www.mastercardfdn.org/2017-2018-youth-think-tank-report/>

8 The Youth Employment in Agriculture Programme (YEAP) implemented by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development with support from IFAD, WB, DFID, USAID, FAO and ILO.

9 <http://www.mastercardfdn.org/2017-2018-youth-think-tank-report/>

and developing partnerships to enhance the coherence of interventions at the national level.

4. Broadening the rural youth employment spectrum by looking at food systems and territories

More programmes look at food systems¹⁰ and use value chain analysis but not all with a focus on youth

Moving the lens from agriculture as farming to agricultural value chains and food systems uncovers a range of employment opportunities that could benefit youth. It is expected that rural youth in West Africa will transition to the non-farm food economy sector¹¹. Young people are already expressing more interest in finding jobs in downstream and upstream services to agriculture¹². Organisations supporting the development and structuring of agricultural value chains have developed their own tools (e.g. EC [Value Chain Analysis for Development](#)^{xxvii}; United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) [pro-poor value chain development](#)^{xxviii}; USAID [Gender and pro-poor VC analysis](#)^{xxix}; and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) [M4P approach](#)^{xxx} also used by the [Australia-Indonesia Partnership for Rural Economic Development](#)^{xxxi}). However, because these tools do not include a specific focus on youth employment, it is difficult to gauge how they benefit youth. In Ethiopia, FAO developed a methodology to integrate an employment and youth lens into a livestock value chain analysis ([Small-Ruminant Value Chains in the Ethiopian Highland](#)^{xxxii}). A value chain assessment undertaken in Tanzania by the [UN Joint Programme on Youth](#)

[Employment](#)^{xxxiii} found that the most attractive value chains for youth are characterised by low entry capital requirements, short-term returns as well as high market demand. Engaging with youth from early stages and integrating a youth dimension within value chain analysis¹³ is therefore crucial to identifying opportunities and raising young people's awareness about these opportunities. An example at the regional level includes the [rural youth project of the New Partnership for Africa's Development \(NEPAD\) and FAO](#)^{xxxiv}, which aims to create decent employment opportunities for young women and men in rural areas through the development of rural enterprises in sustainable agriculture and agribusiness along strategic value chains.

Some programmes focus on local value chains and others on export value chains

Programmes may look at different types of food value chains. Some focus on food destined primarily for local and national consumption with the objective of improving food security (IFAD 'Agricultural Value Chains Development Project' in Senegal, USAID 'Mali Out-of-School Youth' project). Employment patterns in food systems in West Africa are already primarily driven by local food demand and there are growing opportunities at the national and regional level; the scope for intra-Africa trade and for taking advantage of cross-border dynamics is huge¹⁴. Other programmes direct their attention to commodity markets such as cacao and coffee (e.g. GIZ 'Sustainable Smallholder Agri-Business Cocoa-Food Link Programme' and ADB support to Timor-Leste's coffee industry) or horticulture products (USAID 'MIPFuturo' project in Guatemala), which are labour intensive. The Inter-professional Cocoa and Coffee Council of Cameroon, supported by ITC, developed [The New Generation programme](#)^{xxxv}, an initiative that recruits and supervises young people who are interested

10 Food system activities range from primary production, processing and transport, to marketing and food away from home (restaurants, catering). They are spread across the different categories in National Accounts (primary, secondary and tertiary sector). Source: footnote 11.

11 Allen, T., P. Heinrigs and I. Heo (2017), "Agriculture, food and jobs in West Africa", West African Papers, N°11, OECD Publishing, Paris.

12 Structural transformation to boost youth labour demand in Sub-Saharan Africa: The role of agriculture, rural areas and territorial development, Bruno Losch; ILO, Employment Policy Department, Employment and Labour Market Policies Branch. Geneva: ILO, 2016.

13 Guiding principles for gender and youth inclusive value chains, developed by SNV http://www.snv.org/public/cms/sites/default/files/explore/download/snv-kit_wps_7-2015.pdf

14 Allen, T., P. Heinrigs and I. Heo (2017), "Agriculture, food and jobs in West Africa", West African Papers, N°11, OECD Publishing, Paris.

in the production of cocoa on the condition that each of them commits to creating a hectare of cocoa farm every year for three years.

Paying closer attention to territories and spatial aspects

There is a common understanding that the transformation of rural economies – a process already underway¹⁵ – needs to be taken into consideration to build rural youth employment pathways. Such pathways need to reflect the reality that rural youth may have different strategies, from focusing on commercial agriculture to developing mixed livelihoods (farm and off-farm). Taking a territorial approach to employment may help to better understand the linkages between agricultural productivity and on-farm and off-farm employment in the food sector and other sectors. A report from the Sahel and West Africa Club¹⁶ indicates high levels of participation in agricultural production amongst youth aged 15–19 years, and a decrease in participation in the 30–34 year-old cohort. This decrease is accompanied by increases in employment in off-farm activities of the food system and in the non-food system. Similar trends are found in Latin America with a transition to rural non-agricultural employment. The report highlights the importance of integrating a spatial and territorial approach in the design of interventions, and of paying particular attention to the role that small towns and intermediate cities can play in food economy development. The Sahel and West Africa Club is currently collecting information in selected Sub-Saharan African countries in order to map job opportunities in the food economy.

5. Providing youth with access to technical and soft skills and information that make sense for the market and for them

Training and vocational programmes have undergone (and are still going through) a major reassessment in order to tackle the issue of

mismatch between the types of skills acquired and those demanded by the market. In addition, there is an increased awareness of the importance of youth acquiring soft skills and connecting with each other, reinforced by the scientific understanding that adolescence and young adulthood are critical times for growth and development.

Some programmes focus specifically on agricultural training for youth

Successful agricultural training programmes usually combine technical and soft skills development (e.g. business skills and life skills), using peer-to-peer, on-farm and experiential learning approaches. In particular, the Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools methodology, developed by FAO and applying a public-private partnership (PPP) approach, has shown positive results in facilitating youth skills development, access to land, finance and markets. [The Songhai Centre^{xxxvi}](#) is widely known for training approaches that combine sustainable farming skills with business and leadership skills, and has provided support to projects such as the IFAD-funded 'Community-Based Natural Resource Management Programme' in the Niger Delta. Other interventions include support to upgrade national training systems (FAO and AFD-supported Agricultural and Rural Training Network), and the development of apprenticeship programmes (French Development Agency (AFD) in Cameroon). Finally, farmer organisations have a key role to play in building capacities and transferring local and traditional knowledge and confidence to young farmers.


Many technical and vocational education and training (TVET) programmes focus on non-farm sectors with increased linkages to the private sector

Some organisations (e.g. GIZ, SDC and AFD) have significant experience in using a dual TVET approach in their programmes. This approach combines theoretical and practical on-the-job training and apprenticeships and has proven successful in reducing skills mismatch and

15 IFAD 2017 report on rural transformation.

16 See footnote 12.





enhancing employability. Some programmes include follow-up support and placement services to better connect the supply side with the demand side (BMZ/GIZ, SDC, World Bank programme^{xxxvii}) but not specifically in the agricultural sector. Some organisations have also developed programmes focused on smoothing the school-to-work transition (ADB, DFID, and the International Labour Organization (ILO)). Innovative approaches include the use of results-based financing systems for TVET, which incentivise service providers to offer market relevant trainings to young people and to link them to gainful employment (e.g. [Helvetas Swiss Cooperation- Employment Fund in Nepal](#)^{xxxviii}, [World Bank Kenya Youth Employment and Opportunities](#)^{xxxix}). Other interventions focus on the rehabilitation of infrastructures and the procurement of equipment for training facilities (KfW). The German-African Union [Skills Initiative for Africa](#)^{xl} includes a financing facility to support and scale up innovative approaches to skills development.

Some of the challenges identified by members include: the low level of functional literacy and numeracy skills among rural youth; the continuous need to strengthen collaboration between businesses and the TVET sector in order to adapt curricula to current and future skills' needs; and the importance of monitoring programmes' outcomes in terms of quantity and quality of employment generated in rural and non-rural areas. In addition, particular effort is needed to ensure young women and men have equal opportunities to benefit from such programmes.

Spaces dedicated to accessing and sharing information, expertise and business services with rural youth

Rural youth do not always have access to the information or services they need to start and develop a sustainable business or to learn about support schemes or beneficial employment opportunities. Information and training opportunities often reach towns but not rural areas. Hence, the provision of proximity services is vital for young people living in rural areas. Different models of platforms, rural mini-cluster centres

and business advisory centres are being tested to provide young people with services such as training in production, marketing, agribusiness and group cooperation (FAO supports MIJA platforms in Senegal and the [Factoria de Emprendimiento](#)^{xli} in Guatemala, IFAD in Ghana, [GIZ Green Innovation Centres](#)^{xlii}). The objective is to: increase agricultural productivity; enhance young people's skills to become promoters of local development; and generate direct jobs and agro-enterprises in agriculture and other sectors such as renewable energies, reforestation and eco-tourism. In certain cases, young people are trained as community business facilitators (e.g. USAID) who serve as sales agents and disseminate technologies to rural areas.

Access to and use of ICTs for agriculture

Most programmes include the use of some type of ICTs to: disseminate information related to agriculture; link young farmers with agricultural extension specialists as well as with opportunities and training resources ([www.chisparural.gt](#) in Guatemala); facilitate access to markets (<https://agrocenta.com/>); and promote networking among young farmers. While the mobile phone is probably the most important communication device used by young farmers¹⁷, associated costs and lack of connectivity need to be considered in the selection of adequate technology. In addition, it is important to be aware of the gender gap in access to ICTs and digital literacy. The [G20 #eSkills4Girls](#)^{xliii} initiative instigated under the German G20 presidency aims at tackling the existing gender digital divide, particularly in low income and developing countries. Interesting initiatives led by NGOs include the [young farmers network](#)^{xliv} in Ghana and Kenya, which designs radio programmes offering innovative extension services to young farmers, and the 'Agriculture, Rural Development and Youth in the Information Society' ([ARDYIS](#)¹⁸) initiative of the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation. ICTs are evolving and disseminating rapidly, but ultimately, programmes should

17 Africa Agriculture Status Report 2015

18 <http://ardyis.cta.int>

start by identifying the information channels that their target end-users predominantly access as well as associated costs and the potential need to increase digital literacy.

6. Moving from programmes to policies designed with youth for youth

Increasingly, young women and men are invited to participate in national policy dialogues and high-level conferences to identify solutions with regard to issues that affect them.

Including rural youth and employment issues in national and regional policies is vital to the sustainability of interventions

There is a general recognition that the sustainability of interventions requires national ownership and integration of youth and employment issues into rural development and agricultural policies and investment plans (at national and regional levels). However, the reality is that there is a significant need for strengthening the capacity and coordination among ministries and enhancing coherence between policies. The FAO 'Integrated Country Approach' for [promoting decent rural employment](#)^{xlv} provides a good example of efforts towards more policy coherence in this regard. Others work with governments on a youth inclusion perspective that is broader than just agriculture (OECD 'Youth Inclusion Project'). In order to increase youth participation, some programmes facilitate spaces for dialogue with and among rural youth and include capacity building of rural youth leaders and youth organisations on policies so that they can engage actively in such processes. Different organisations have started knowledge platforms on rural youth policies and programmes, e.g. FAO's [Policy Database](#)^{xlvi}, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) [Youth Policy Toolbox](#)^{xlvii}, the Netherlands' [INCLUDE knowledge platform](#)^{xlviii}, OECD's Youth Inclusion upcoming toolkit, and the multi-stakeholder platform Solutions for Youth Employment ([S4YE](#)^{xlix}).

Farmers' organisations and networks can play an important role in advancing the rights of rural youth.

In the Philippines, farmers' organisations are advocating for a [Magna Carta of young farmers](#)^l that urges the recognition of young farmers as a population category with their own rights and responsibilities, and that seeks to institutionalise young farmers' representation in all agricultural policy-making bodies. In El Salvador and Colombia, IFAD supported the creation and strengthening of local rural and national youth networks to engage in public policy. The 2017 [Abidjan Declaration](#)^{li} of the 4th Africa-Europe Youth Summit and the [ASEAN Young Farmers' Declaration](#)^{lii} are encouraging signs that the voice of youth in high-level meetings is growing. In particular, the ASEAN declaration pushes for affirmative action in farmers' organisations and recommends, e.g., that at least 20% of the membership of farmers' organisations be composed of young farmers and that young farmers' wings and committees or separate youth organisations be strengthened while still maintaining close institutional links with farmers' organisations.



Gaps and remaining questions

I. There is a general lack of data on rural economies and rural youth employment and, correspondingly, limited understanding of how programmes benefit youth

Information on rural employment and rural youth is scarce, particularly because informality is widely spread. National institutions in developing countries often lack the capacity to capture this informal sector. In addition, focusing on youth in agricultural and rural development programmes is a new direction for many organisations and the absence of age-disaggregated data makes it difficult to understand how such programmes benefit rural youth.

II. There is a perception that rural development projects will automatically benefit young women and men in rural settings

Without specifically targeting young women and men and taking into account the heterogeneity of youth, it is difficult to ensure that 'no one is left behind'. It is therefore important to pay attention to who is included and who is excluded from interventions. Applying an employment perspective in value chain analysis could provide information on where wage employment or self-employment opportunities exist and the types of skills that young people would need to utilise these opportunities. Similarly, young women do not automatically benefit from interventions unless their specific constraints are taken into account. For example, women's unequal access to education, land, and reproductive health information and services, as well as time poverty impede them from fully seizing economic opportunities. An entry point for addressing this issue is to incorporate youth and gender perspectives when planning rural investments in energy and water.

III. What role can donors play with regard to questions of demographics?

Questions around fertility and family planning remain sensitive as they are linked to social and cultural norms. However, it is crucial that efforts are made to address them. Keeping girls in schools and improving their access to reproductive health information and services contributes to reducing child marriage and fertility rates¹⁹. Raising awareness among young men and facilitating collaboration between governments and traditional and religious leaders may be part of the solution²⁰.

IV. Greater focus on building the leadership skills of rural young women and men and their organisations is needed

Often, young people who participate in national (or international) meetings are from urban backgrounds and are highly educated; as such, they are not truly representative of the broader youth community. Engaging rural young women and men in such forums is crucial for ensuring that their concerns are taken into account and that they are co-designers of solutions. More focus on identifying and building the confidence, ability and capacity of rural young women and men to engage in these processes is therefore necessary.

19 AFD, 2017, Linkages between education and fertility in Sub-Saharan Africa

20 http://www.lemonde.fr/economie/article/2014/04/02/en-afrique-la-maitrise-de-la-demographie-passe-par-une-cooperation-entre-les-pouvoirs-civil-et-religieux_4394010_3234.html#tLoFU1JLi6FMcyCt.99

V. Breaking silos: how to build a continuum between interventions targeting children and youth and between those targeting rural and urban youth?

Youth empowerment starts with the provision of adequate protection, health, food and education for children. The close linkages between child labour – which is predominant in agriculture – and youth employment outcomes require common policy approaches. Only a few programmes and policies focus on youth aged 15–17 as beneficiaries. A recent [FAO expert meeting](#)^{liii} provided initial recommendations on how to address challenges faced by youth in this age bracket. There is a further need for better understanding of spatial pathways of employment and migratory dynamics between rural and urban areas.

VI. How can funds be used strategically to support rural development and rural youth empowerment?

There is a general unmet need for agricultural investments and investments in rural areas of developing countries²¹. Key questions that must be addressed to improve living conditions in rural areas and to convince young people to stay include: What can innovative financial mechanisms such as development bonds, impact investment and results-based financing systems bring to rural development and rural youth empowerment (e.g. USAID [Village Enterprise Development Impact Bond](#), Nepal Employment Fund)?; How can the role of remittances be better understood? And how can members collaborate with national governments for more investments in rural areas and rural youth?

VII. How can collaboration between the public and private sectors better support rural youth?


Private sector entities may include cooperatives, local small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) or large corporations interested in investing in the food sector. Collaboration between the public and private sectors might be facilitated by addressing the following questions: What can donors learn from the private sector in terms of employment creation and entrepreneurship?; How can donors assist the private sector in developing strategies that are socially and environmentally responsive and sensitive to rural economies and rural youth?; and how can a dialogue between the private sector and governments be facilitated? Ultimately, the prioritisation of efforts lies in the hands of governments and they can take a leadership role in promoting youth-responsive rural development strategies.

An increased number of initiatives focus on rural youth; however, creating the conditions for young women and men to thrive in agriculture, rural areas and beyond requires effective collaboration among actors

Achieving the targets set by the G20 Rural Youth Employment Initiative will require:

- ▶ re-thinking the way donors tackle rural youth issues across their operations,
- ▶ increased coherence and coordination among donors and development agencies,
- ▶ support for building the capacity of national and local institutions, and
- ▶ collaborative efforts with the private sector and listening to youth.

²¹ OECD statistics show that the share of bilateral official development assistance devoted to agriculture production was the same in 2015 (4.3 per cent) as it was in 2008.



Building on the work presented in this Compendium and in dialogue with youth, the Annual General Assembly of the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development intends to contribute to addressing the questions:

- ▶ What can be done better together (also in line with the Paris Declaration, which calls for enhanced development effectiveness)? and
- ▶ How can agricultural and rural development programmes be more responsive to the needs of youth?

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SECTION II

Snapshot of
members'
engagement with
rural youth



African Development Bank (AfDB)

I. Rural youth in the organisation's policies or strategies

The AfDB's *Strategy for 2013-2022: At the Center of Africa's Transformation*¹ outlines an inclusive growth objective with four elements. One of these is broadening economic opportunities for youth. The Bank's work on youth empowerment includes interventions in the areas of education and skills development, entrepreneurship and business development, and health and nutrition.

In 2015, the Bank developed the *Jobs for Youth in Africa strategy 2016-2025*², which aims to create 25 million jobs and to build the skills of 50 million youth to improve their employability or to become successful entrepreneurs. It focuses on three intervention areas including:

- ▶ **Integration:** mainstreaming youth employment in the Bank's projects and strengthening capacities and dialogue with African countries to maintain the momentum of youth-centric and job reach enabling policies and strategies;
- ▶ **Innovation:** flagship programmes to scale up projects that are impactful for youth employment; a youth innovation lab to support entrepreneurship ecosystem building in Africa; an Enabling Youth Employment scorecard to measure youth employment outcomes and enabling policies at country level, and
- ▶ **Investment:** setting up the Jobs for Youth in Africa Facility, a special fund dedicated to youth employment with resources from the Bank and liked-minded donors.

II. Entry points and approaches to empower rural youth in programmes/projects

One entry point is to support agriculture as an avenue for both youth employment creation and food security. The objective is to consider and invest in agriculture as a business, provide youth with business skills, facilitate their access to finance, and support the development of agribusinesses.

The traditional focus on production is now moving to a larger value chain and market development approach. While previous projects focusing on value chains may have included some aspects of youth employment, the current programmes deliberately target employment opportunities for young people along agricultural value chains. With this new approach, engagement with the private sector as partner, investor, mentor, potential employer and client, is central.

The *ENABLE Youth*³ flagship programme (Empowering Novel Agribusiness-Led Employment for Youths) builds on the Bank's *Feed Africa Strategy (2016-2025)*⁴ and the 'Jobs for Youth in Africa' strategy. The objective of ENABLE Youth is to help young unemployed tertiary graduates between the ages of 18 to 35 to become agripreneurs and to launch agribusinesses that could create jobs. The approach includes linking young graduates to incubators, providing training on business development, technologies, mentorship, linkages to existing businesses and appropriate financial instruments, e.g. risk sharing facilities and start-up seed grant funds. ENABLE Youth programmes are currently being designed and implemented in several countries including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar, Malawi, Nigeria, Sudan, and Zambia.

Flagship programmes related to agriculture include:

- ▶ The **Rural Microenterprise Programme** that aims to provide youth (typically with

less than secondary education) with capital, skills training and mentorship to launch agriculture-based micro-enterprises. The programme will particularly focus on female youth, with at least 60% female participation (Malawi, Nigeria and Burkina Faso).

- ▶ The **Agro-Industrialisation Pipeline Development Programme** to provide demand-led, employer-aligned training and placement in agro-processing and related industries (food processing, distribution, animal feed production and storage).
- ▶ The **Skills Enhancement Zones (SEZ) Flagship Programme**. This will (i.) promote crop enhancement zones and (ii.) develop a pool of skilled workers in the informal sector through trainings focused on skills aligned with employer needs and creating job placement programmes within industrial clusters. The programme is open to youth of medium skill level, such as those who have some secondary-level education and existing artisans/enterprises (including light manufacturing) with an equal emphasis on men and women. For example, in Nigeria, the Bank is implementing a FAPA Technical Assistance assessment on the state of industrial clusters. The Bank also approved an ADB loan of UA 20 million for an Industrial Cluster Development project for Zambia in 2015.

III. Some lessons learned and moving forward

Young people need to be actively engaged in the design and implementation of programmes and strategies. In the context of the implementation of the Jobs for Youth Strategy, a [Presidential Youth Advisory Group](#)⁵ has been created to provide insights and engage in a dialogue around innovative solutions for job creation for youth. The Group brings together men and women under the age of 40 from the private and public sectors as well as civil society.

Youth employment interventions are often fragmented, focusing on only one aspect of the situation, usually from the supply side. As such, they do not fully consider the needs and challenges of youth as a heterogeneous group. Linking skills development to market demands, but also creating spaces for innovation and future opportunities in the context of the modernisation of agriculture and changes in rural economies, is critical.

Beyond the topic of youth employment creation in agriculture, it is important to integrate a focus on youth within broader debates and initiatives around land, rural infrastructure and finance.

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Asian Development Bank (ADB)

I. Rural youth in the organisation's policies or strategies

ADB's long-term strategic framework promotes three complementary agendas: inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration. There is no policy dedicated to youth employment. However, this topic is a priority for the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department and the ADB Youth for Asia team.

In 2013, ADB initiated the Youth Initiative, now called [ADB Youth for Asia](#)¹, to support young people in contributing effectively to development.

In addition, in 2018 ADB will launch the initiative 'Promoting Regional Knowledge Sharing Partnerships', which intends to focus on up-scaling innovative youth employment solutions. Expected outputs include: development of demonstration projects that enhance youth employability; increased youth participation in the implementation of ADB's projects; the launch of institutional knowledge-building programmes for developing member countries; implementation of key CSOs on youth employment solutions; and expansion of partnerships for youth employment solutions among ADB's developing member countries, development partners and youth.

II. Entry points and approaches to empower youth in programmes/projects

ADB Youth for Asia is a programme managed by ADB's NGO and Civil Society Center to mainstream youth participation in the Bank's operations. The team brings together diverse young individuals representing ADB's Developing Member Countries as well as Member Countries working out of ADB Headquarters to mainstream and increase meaningful youth participation in ADB operations. The Youth for Asia team provides support to ADB staff throughout the lifecycle of a project's youth component, including design, procurement, implementation and monitoring.

A successful example of ADB Youth for Asia is its support to the Second Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project in Cambodia. Youth for Asia worked with the project officer to design a component that would allow for two young people (one international and one local) to work directly with the project team for a period of 12 months. The two young people were assigned the key role of building youth empowerment and leadership of local youth in the rural villages to take greater ownership over water investments made by ADB. This project is currently in the implementation stage and the two young people are currently creating youth WASH clubs in rural communities of Cambodia, thereby building youth empowerment and leadership. These capacity-building workshops will in turn increase youth representation in local village councils and WASH user groups. This initiative is implemented in partnership with AIESEC International and AIESEC Cambodia²².

According to the [ADB 2016 annual report](#)², the Bank engages with youth in different ways, for example:

- ▶ **Increasing youth voice** through the organisation of an annual Asian Youth Forum and support for youth representatives to join strategic meetings such as the Clean Energy Forum. Since 2016, the [Asia Pacific Youth Exchange](#)³ programme aims to

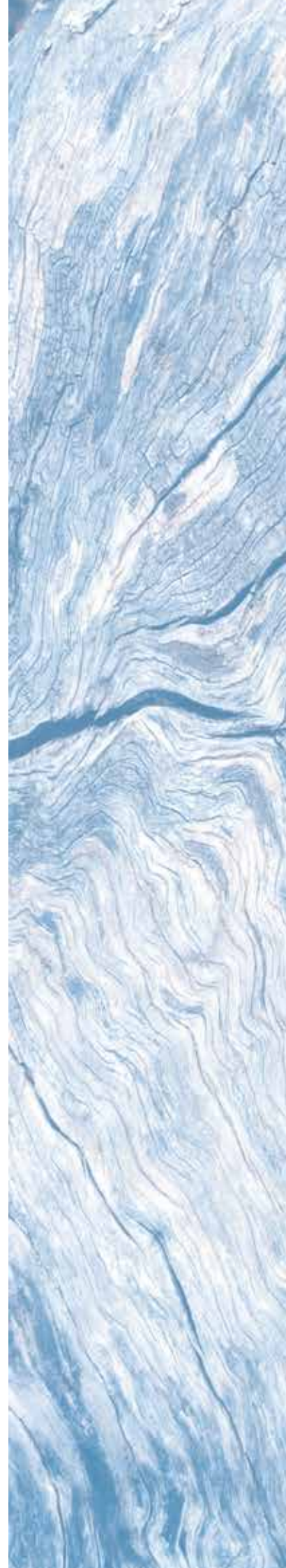
²² AIESEC is an international non-governmental not-for-profit organisation that provides young people with leadership development, cross-cultural global internships, and volunteer exchange experiences across the globe.

capacitate young people from the Asia-Pacific to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals through leadership training and immersion.

- ▶ **Involving youth in stakeholder analysis**, the design of project loans, impact assessments and feedback mechanisms with governments.
- ▶ **Enhancing access to decent employment** by: facilitating school to work transitions and building skills through formal or technical training and internships (e.g. [JobStart in the Philippines](#)⁴, Myanmar and Mongolia); combining technical and vocational education and training with stipend programmes (e.g. Lao PDR); and improving labour market regulations and policies to the benefit of young people.
- ▶ **Engaging youth in promising value chains**, e.g. in Timor-Leste. ADB's Technical Assistance Special Fund will help develop Timor-Leste's coffee industry through the preparation of a comprehensive coffee sector development plan that will be implemented in collaboration with the private sector and young people.

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Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)

I. Rural youth in the organisation's policies or strategies

While rural youth is not a focus area of Australia's aid per se, there is an understanding of the importance of engaging rural young people in development, for example through investment priorities in agriculture, fisheries and water, education and health, gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.

Australia is addressing the development needs of youth and their role as actors in furthering prosperity and security through bilateral programmes in the Indo-Pacific region, as well as through its support for relevant multilateral programmes.

II. Entry points and approaches to empower youth in programmes/projects

Education is a priority for Australia's aid¹, with the education portfolio accounting for 19% of the aid budget. Australia invests in education, training and skills development for young people across the Indo-Pacific region with a focus on getting the foundations right, learning for all, universal participation and developing skills for prosperity.

For example, Australia supports the Government of Kiribati in improving the knowledge, skills and opportunities of young I-Kiribati, thereby enabling them to contribute to a productive and resilient community and to pursue employment in areas of domestic and international demand.

Agriculture and fisheries² as key drivers of pro-poor growth and poverty reduction are priority sectors under Australia's current aid policy framework. Australia's aid investments in agriculture focus on three priority areas of engagement: (i.) strengthening markets, (ii.) innovating for productivity and sustainable resource use and (iii.) promoting effective policy, governance and reform. Building economic resilience and creating jobs in rural areas and in small island states requires close engagement with the private sector³. Australia takes a 'shared value approach', collaborating with the private sector to amplify the impact of Australia's aid investments while generating business growth.

Several Australian aid initiatives use market-based approaches to increase employment and incomes for the poor, e.g. [The Market Development Facility](#)⁴, [Australia-Indonesia Partnership for Rural Development](#)⁵ and [Grow Asia](#)⁶, helping smallholder farmers to participate in markets by leveraging private sector investment and innovation in relevant value chains.

In addition, 19% of the [Australian NGO Cooperation Programs](#)⁷ focus on rural development and agriculture, food security and livelihoods. Four per cent specifically target youth mainly in Asia and the Pacific in the sectors of education, economic development through vocational training, and basic life skills and democratic participation, e.g. the 'Cambodia Youth Vocational Training/Employability' project and the 'Tutu Young Farmers Training Project' in Fiji.

Finally, Australia supports the multi-donor Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP), which has the potential to unlock private sector investment in agriculture and create rural employment. Under its [Missing Middle Initiative](#)⁸, the GAFSP is funding projects targeting youth, e.g. 'Inclusion of Rural Youth in Poultry and Aquaculture Value Chains' in Mali and 'Strengthening Rural Women's Livelihoods for a Sustainable Economic Development' in East Senegal.

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Austrian Development Agency (ADA)

I. Rural youth in the organisation's policies or strategies

Reducing poverty, ensuring peace and contributing to conservation of the environment are the goals of the [Austrian Development Agency \(ADA\)](#)¹. Rural youth empowerment is not a priority per se but education, including vocational training, remains high on the Agency's agenda. Rural development on the other side is still a priority but is increasingly addressed through the [nexus 'water – energy – food security'](#)². This year, ADA will be developing a new guideline on Food Security and Sustainable Rural Development. The topic of how to better target youth and address their specific needs will be included in this guideline document.

II. Entry points and approaches to empower youth in programmes/projects

While programmes do not specifically target rural youth, young people are expected to benefit especially through the following entry points:

- ▶ **Vocational education and trainings.** Programmes are designed to link education and training with labour market needs and to combine formal and informal settings. In the context of the diversification of local economies, trainings are usually focused on agricultural topics (such as agricultural technologies) and agriculture-related or 'rural development' topics (e.g. handicrafts, mechanics, etc.). Learning directly in enterprises (apprenticeship) is an important aspect of tailor-made training courses; hence the importance of establishing partnerships with the private sector.
- ▶ **Access to finance.** Many ADA projects/programmes include local or regional funds, which amongst others are used to support access to equipment, trainings and to start small businesses. Individuals, associations and communities can apply for a grant in the context of a call for proposals. Generally, these calls do not address youth exclusively, but there could be dedicated calls for proposals targeting only youth in the future.

III. Some lessons learned and moving forward

Better data and measurement of how youth engage in and benefit from projects is still needed. Some progress has been made in this respect (e.g. through improved targeting, addressing the specific needs of youth and disaggregation of data), but there is room for improvement.

Pathways to empower rural youth need to include enhancing the relevance and quality of trainings to match the labour market, and more investments to improve living conditions in rural areas, e.g. basic services, connectivity, energy and recreational facilities.

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German Development Cooperation (BMZ and GIZ)

I. Rural youth in the organisation's policies or strategies

The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) designated rural youth employment as a development priority on the G20 agenda under the German G20 Presidency in 2017, demonstrating Germany's commitment to this issue. As a result, the heads of state and governments adopted the [G20 Initiative for Rural Youth Employment](#)¹. Germany has since started to implement the commitments of this Initiative, including through its special initiative 'One World, No Hunger'.

Rural youth employment is part of the wider agenda of the German Development Cooperation to support agriculture and food security, as well as rural transformation processes, making agriculture more productive and assisting job creation within and outside the agricultural sector. Germany intends to strengthen its support for rural youth through its current rural development and employment programmes.

II. Entry points and approaches to youth empowerment in programmes/projects


Programmes supporting (rural) youth employment usually take the following entry points:

▶ **(Agricultural) technical and vocational education and training (A/TVET)** based on a dual approach that combines theory and practice (apprenticeship) with an engagement of the private sector, particularly in the formulation of curricula and apprenticeship agreements. The content of the trainings is closely linked to a market analysis. Germany is one of the largest donors in the [TVET sector](#)², with more than 100 projects in 63 countries, mainly in Africa and Asia. The projects use a dual (school- and industry-based) vocational training model, which is practice-oriented, responsive to market needs and in line with the needs of the private sector. The sectors covered by TVET projects include health, renewable energy, mechanical engineering, ICT, and agriculture and food. Technical assistance to governments to facilitate inter-ministerial dialogue on TVET, e.g. in Kenya and Ghana, is another main intervention area.

Some examples of TVET programmes in the agriculture and food sectors include partnerships with local women's organisations in Ghana to enable women to access employment in the cashew value chain as well as renovating and expanding public and private facilities in Togo, where youth can benefit from improved training programmes. Information on TVET programmes in Africa supported by BMZ within the CAADP framework can be found at <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/15974.html>.

▶ **Support for the development and structuring of agricultural value chains.** This is undertaken with strong engagement of the private sector, e.g. the 'Sustainable Smallholder Agri-Business Cocoa-Food Link Programme' (Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo); and the African Competitive Cashew initiative 'Com-Cashew', a private-public partnership project (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mozambique, Togo and Sierra Leone).

▶ **Access to finance (e.g. microloans, micro insurance) and support for entrepreneurship,** with tailor-made mentoring and training programmes on financial literacy, e.g. the Programme for Sustainable Economic Development in Ghana.

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- ▶ **Promotion of SMEs.** Interventions may include supporting the business capacity of farmer organisations and SMEs as well as developing and delivering training and coaching packages for farmer organisations and SMEs. The trainings are geared towards building business, organisational and management capacity, and increasing local value addition.
 - ▶ **Promotion of (local) innovation and technology** to increase the income of smallholder farmers and make the agricultural sector more attractive. The global programme [Green innovation centres for the agriculture and food sector](#)³ (2015–2021) has a specific target for job creation for young people (38%). Launched by BMZ and implemented by GIZ in 14 African countries, this programme aims to increase the income of small farming enterprises, boost employment (particularly in the area of food processing) and improve the regional food supply in rural regions. It promotes networking between local innovations partners in order to improve and accelerate the spread of innovations such as mechanisation within agriculture or improved seeds, fertilizers and food cooling chains.

A few projects specifically target youth employment in rural areas, e.g. in [Morocco](#)⁴, the Dominican Republic, Rwanda and Sierra Leone. For example, the [Promoting youth employment through agricultural development](#)⁵ programme in Sierra Leone aims to improve the income and employment situation of young people in rural areas and focuses on the promotion of value chains for cocoa, coffee, rice and vegetables. Young people benefit from diverse technical, social, organisational and entrepreneurial trainings to improve their level of qualification and opportunities for self-employment or wage labour along these value chains. The programme also includes strengthening the capacity of service providers to develop different segments of the value chains.

In 2017, BMZ launched the [Skills Initiative for Africa](#)⁶ to strengthen occupational prospects of young people, especially those from poor areas. This initiative will include the establishment of a financing facility and an African dialogue platform to highlight innovative and successful approaches, and the strengthening of NEPAD and the African Union Commission's capacity.

III. Some lessons learned and moving forward

Many agricultural and rural development programmes have relevance for, and positive effects on, rural (youth) employment; however, targeting of youth is not yet very specific. Agriculture is the second preferred field of occupation for African rural youth (following the option of working for the government), according to an SMS survey conducted by GIZ on behalf of BMZ in 2017 among 10,000 young Africans in rural regions. Nevertheless, young people will engage in agriculture under certain conditions including improved access to technology, innovation and land, and the prospect of a decent income.

There is a general lack of data on rural youth employment. The measurement of programmes' achievements needs to better account for the number and types of jobs created in rural areas and provide information on who is benefiting and who is not. This requires a systematic disaggregation of data collected to enhance learning on what works and for whom. BMZ is currently undertaking studies on how to measure formal versus informal work and how to implement youth employment efforts in the [Green Innovation Centres](#)⁷.

A key feature of successful interventions relates to the engagement of the private sector. The private sector can function as an investor, employer or client. It can also

provide training (apprenticeship) and mentoring. More learning is needed to define the modalities of engaging with different kinds of private actors in order to promote rural youth empowerment. Another element of success and sustainability of interventions lies in a strong national ownership, the strengthening of national and local institutions, and engaging youth in programme design and implementation.

Web references:

1. G20 Initiative for Rural Youth Employment <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/23551/2017-g20-rural-youth-employment-en.pdf>
2. TVET sector https://www.bmz.de/en/publications/type_of_publication/information_flyer/information_brochures/Materialie303_supporting_tvet.pdf
3. Green innovation centres for the agriculture and food sector <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/32209.html>
4. Morocco <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/33842.html>
5. Promoting youth employment through agricultural development <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/20949.html>
6. Skills Initiative for Africa http://skillsinitiative-for-africa.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Skills_Initiative_for_Africa_EN.pdf
7. Green innovation centres for the agriculture and food sector <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/32209.html>





Denmark Development Cooperation (DANIDA)

I. Rural youth in the organisation's policies or strategies

Denmark takes a human rights-based approach to youth in development. In 2017, Denmark's Ministry of Foreign Affairs launched a new strategy for the country's development cooperation and humanitarian action: *The World 2030*¹. A key focus area of this strategy is supporting youth as agents of change, partners and leaders.

This new focus on youth started with the preparation of the report *Youth Leading the World 2030: A Review of Danida's Youth-Related Engagements*, which includes 19 recommendations on how to engage and include young people in the implementation of *The World 2030*. In addition, the Ministry recently designated a global youth adviser.

Danida also developed a three-lens approach to youth participation: 1) empowering young people to claim, exercise and defend their rights; 2) encouraging mutually accountable partnerships between youth and duty bearers responsible for validating the rights of young people; and 3) ensuring the full inclusion of youth within society.

There is no specific strategy on rural youth but all partner countries have a strong emphasis on rural areas.

II. Entry points and approaches to youth empowerment in programmes/projects

Entry points include **technical and vocational training, support to young entrepreneurs** with capacity development and entrepreneurship mentoring, **SRHR** and **advocacy**. Some initiatives aim to make agriculture more attractive (role models), more accessible (land rights, technology, financial products) and gainful (online platforms, links to markets and value chains) for young people. Examples of the youth-related programmes identified in the *Review of Danida's Youth-Related Engagements*² are provided below.

The Youth Empowerment Support (YES) programme run by Save the Children in Uganda specifically targets 'vulnerable youth' who join youth-led community groups. The programme provides young people with basic literacy skills, vocational training and information about their rights. YES also actively engages these youth groups in monitoring and influencing local budgets.

Youth is often one of the target groups of agricultural programmes. For example, one of the three expected outcomes of the 'Value Chain Greening and Financing Programme' implemented by the Micro-Enterprise Support Programme Trust in Kenya is the creation of jobs, "especially for women and youth". The programme is incubating 18 youth-led enterprises and covers activities such as transportation, food grading and processing.

Other examples include the Youth Entrepreneurship Facility implemented by ILO in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, which offers assistance to rural and urban youth including advisory services, mentorship and access to finance.

Denmark also intends to maintain its position as a strong global advocate of SRHR.

Finally, the recently revised *Aid Management Guidelines*³ are bringing a stronger focus on youth by including this group as a key component of any context analysis. For instance, the design of the next *Country Programme for Ethiopia*⁴ focusing on agricultural commercialisation, rural productive safety nets and climate resilient livelihoods focuses attention on youth participation and engagement.

III. Some lessons learned and moving forward

The review of Danida's youth-related engagements found that programme documentation included very limited information on the role(s) of youth, beyond being a target beneficiary.

However, there is a clear commitment to identifying ways for young people to participate as partners in future interventions. Supporting youth organisations to lead their own change by facilitating their access to skills, knowledge and funding is an essential component of Danida's new strategy.

Web references:

1. 'The World 2030' <http://um.dk/en/danida-en/Strategies and priorities/>
2. The Review of Danida's Youth-Related Engagements <http://um.dk/en/~media/UM/Danish-site/Documents/Danida/Det-vil-vi/Youth Leading The World 2030 Report Final.pdf>
3. Aid Management Guidelines <http://amg.um.dk/en/programmes-and-projects/january-2018-guidelines-for-programmes-and-projects>
4. Country Programme for Ethiopia <http://um.dk/en/about-us/procurement/contracts/short/contract-opportunities/newsdisplaypage/?newsid=c8508b6a-b733-4919-ac67-10d0c91b43dd>





United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID)

I. Rural youth in the organisation's policies or strategies

DFID has a Youth and Education division with a strong focus on girls and women, as highlighted in the [UK Aid Strategy](#)¹.

In 2016, DFID launched its [Youth Agenda: putting young people at the heart of development](#)², with four strategic objectives relating to: (i.) peace and governance, (ii.) resilience to crises, (iii.) prosperity, and (iv.) poverty eradication. It sets a framework that looks at youth as change makers and advocates and makes a commitment to increase voices of young people in DFID's interventions. Particular attention is given to youth demographics. The agenda looks at two age groups: (1) early adolescence with a focus on education and SRHR, and (2) adolescence to adulthood with a focus on transitions from education into productive work. There is no specific focus on rural youth.

II. Entry points and approaches to youth empowerment in programmes/projects

While there are no specific programmes on youth in agriculture, some programmes incorporate youth as a target group by integrating a social inclusion perspective. Increasingly, programmes are collecting gender and age-disaggregated data.

Most of the programmes include a value chain approach and investments in agribusiness with a focus on underserved domestic and regional markets and support for smallholder farmers, particularly women and girls. For example, in Somalia, the objective of the 'Promoting Inclusive Markets programme' is to expand private investment in the sectors of livestock, fisheries, poultry, food crops, construction and light manufacturing in order to create long-term employment for the poor, women and youth.

The challenges of inheritance, legacy and fragmentation of land are known to increase competition for land, often driving youth away from agriculture. DFID's LEG-END flagship programme and bilateral programmes (such as LIFT in Ethiopia) place an emphasis on issues of land tenure and inheritance of land for young people.

DFID supports the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP³), a multilateral financing instrument to promote agriculture-based growth and to increase farmers' access to markets whilst strengthening economic resilience of poor people in Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America. Out of the GAFSP Public Sector Window portfolio of 39 projects, 24 (62%) involve creating jobs and 16 are in Africa. These projects have the potential to benefit young people. While GAFSP, as a country-led initiative, operates on the principle of no earmarking of funds, future calls for proposals could include jobs for youth in rural areas as one of the crosscutting themes.

Another topic of interest for DFID is young **women's empowerment** with interventions aimed at prevention of early marriage and violence as well as the provision of SRHR and education. In partnership with the Government of Ethiopia, the [DFID-funded Finote Hiwot programme](#)⁴ is helping adolescent girls to avoid child marriage by raising awareness amongst both boys and girls in schools, organizing community conversations and providing economic incentives to girls (school materials) and their

caregivers (training for income generating activities and loans through membership in local savings and credit cooperatives).

Finally, DFID supports some youth-led programmes in Sierra Leone, Uganda, Tanzania, and Nepal that combine a focus on **youth civic participation**, SRHR and livelihoods. More information can be found in the [UK Development Tracker](#)⁵.

III. Some lessons learned and moving forward

Supporting youth to engage in agriculture not as a last resort but as a meaningful and profitable activity is an option when young people have access to 'enough' land. However, the issue of land tenure security remains a challenge in many countries. For those who do not have access to land, the value chain approach can bring off-farm job opportunities. Even where youth have no immediate plans to engage in farming, secure land tenure and inheritance rights will provide them with the freedom to generate an income from the land, e.g. through leasing, which can be used to further their careers through education and training or simply to improve incomes and livelihoods.

Skills development programmes need to take into account different pathway options and be tailored to the development of jobs along promising value-chains as well as other jobs that young people may find when moving out of rural areas.

Empowering rural young women to become entrepreneurs or to access decent jobs can be transformative not only for the young women themselves but also for their families, communities and the local economy. This requires a combination of inputs that address the challenges specific to rural girls and young women such as time poverty, early marriage, and lack of access to education and finance.

Web references:

1. UK Aid Strategy <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-aid-tackling-global-challenges-in-the-national-interest>
2. Youth Agenda: putting young people at the heart of development https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/550229/DFIDyouthagendaapproach4.pdf
3. Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme <http://www.gafspfund.org>
4. DFID-funded Finote Hiwot programme http://finotehiwot.org/about_us
5. UK Development Tracker <https://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/>





European Commission (EC): Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development

I. Rural youth in the organisation's policies or strategies

In line with the [New European Consensus on Development](#)¹ 'Our world, our dignity, our future', the EC is refocusing EU development policy on inclusive and sustainable growth and the creation of decent jobs as well as the preservation of natural resources for future generations. With the demographic dynamic in Sub-Saharan Africa, creating sufficient good quality jobs for young people is, and will remain, a key challenge. Addressing youth employment in particular requires a multi-layered approach.

II. Entry points and approaches to youth empowerment in programmes/projects

While young people's employment has been a priority for European countries for many years, the attention given to youth as a specific target group in the EC International Cooperation and Development strategy is more recent. The EC is supporting the [OECD Youth Inclusion Project](#)², which for the first time looks at youth well-being, in a more holistic sense than just employment, in nine developing and emerging economies.

Vocational education and training (VET) remains one of the main entry points for supporting youth. It includes a range of features such as work-based learning (apprenticeship) and skills development in entrepreneurship. In addition, technical assistance is provided to governments on social protection and labour rights; however, improved targeting is necessary to ensure rural youth benefit from these schemes. The EC also supports a VET Toolbox, which will be launched in April 2018. Albeit not exclusively targeting rural areas or youth (though these will, at least implicitly, be the main intended beneficiaries), the VET toolbox seeks to strengthen the links between VET and the private sector providing technical assistance to relevant stakeholders.

From the demand side, the **value chain approach** is increasingly being used and is expected to support employment creation for all, including youth, in a sustainable manner. In 2016, the EC launched the [Value Chain Analysis for Development](#)³ (VCA4D) project, implemented in partnership with [AGRINATURA](#)⁴, the European Alliance on Agricultural Knowledge for Development. The objective of the VCA4D is to assess the performance and contribution of selected agricultural commodities to growth and job creation in a range of countries, taking into account the economic, social and environmental sustainability and inclusiveness of these value chains. The analysis looks at the number of jobs taken by men and women along a value chain and sometimes includes information on youth, though not in a systematic way. The VCA4D project has been implemented in [Mali \(rice\)](#)⁵, Burkina Faso (mango), Kenya (green beans) and Cote d'Ivoire (cassava). The selection of value chains takes into account performance aspects as well as government priorities.

Interventions to develop market-oriented and environmentally sustainable value chains (e.g. poultry in Zambia, beef meat in Uganda) usually identify women and youth as important direct beneficiaries of the projects; however, there are no indicators related to youth.

The **Compact for Growth and Jobs (CGJ)** has been conceived as an internal EU operational tool to maximise the impact of EU actions in line with its commitments

and country-specific priorities (e.g. humanitarian/development nexus, security/development nexus, etc.). An essential building block in the work of the Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development is creating jobs at the national level. In this regard, the development of a clear strategy for engagement in and support for value chains and regional markets is important. The CGJ also seeks to kick-start the implementation of the External Investment Plan (EIP²³), fostering decent/higher wage job creation and transitions to inclusive and competitive value-adding low-emission, climate-resilient economies and societies. The CGJ will seek to: (1) leverage investments²⁴, thereby creating more stability and increasing resilience to natural disasters and climate change; and (2) reinforce the coherence and focus of a range of EU interventions and instruments. The CGJ will also serve as a means to foster convergence of the priorities identified in a given country with partner financial institutions and the private sector. Moreover, the CGJ should help to frame the EU's growth and jobs strategy for a country or a region. This involves guiding the identification and formulation of relevant programmes while developing a project pipeline for blending and use under the External Investment Plan. In particular, the guarantee capacity of the European Fund for Sustainable Development should be utilised.

As agriculture (and the agri-food sector as a whole) will remain a primary sector for employment, the specific objective of the CGJ in Africa is the identification of those value chains²⁵ (including regional value chains) in which unleashing responsible and sustainable private sector investment with EU support can make a difference in terms of generating quality and decent jobs.

III. Some lessons learned and moving forward

Supporting the development of sustainable value chains will lead to the creation of employment, which could benefit youth. The private sector⁶ has an important role to play in this inclusive development agenda and partnerships should be based on a clear understanding of development outcomes in line with a rights-based approach to development cooperation and international guidelines. While this remains a challenge, facilitating dialogue between the private sector and governments is essential for the sustainability of value chain interventions.

The link between VET and labour markets is often weak, with insufficient trust and dialogue between public and private stakeholders. This situation can contribute to mismatches between supply of and demand for skills. Furthermore, the potential for disadvantaged groups – including those from the poorest quintile – to increase their chances of a decent job are inhibited by unequal access to VET.

Interventions to support rural youth empowerment need to be complemented by appropriate investments in rural infrastructures and the development of small towns, which can provide rural areas with markets and economic opportunities for young people. In addition, particular attention should be paid to rural youth access to basic education, including support for poorer families to avoid child labour. When children

23 https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/eu-external-investment-plan-factsheet_en

24 E.g. so-called 'impact investments' that generate measurable, beneficial social and/or environmental impacts.

25 <http://agrinatura-eu.eu/2017/02/new-agrinatura-vca4d-project-already-started-now/4-pager-value-chain-analysis-for-development-vca4d-devco-c1/>





work instead of going to school or are exposed to hazardous work, their chances of getting decent jobs as adults are minimal.

Improved guidance is needed to engage with different cohorts of youth in value chain analysis and in the design and implementation of policies and programmes ('listen more to youth').

Web references:

1. New European Consensus on Development https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/european-consensus-on-development-final-20170626_en.pdf
2. OECD Youth Inclusion Project <http://www.oecd.org/dev/inclusivesocietiesanddevelopment/youth-global-research-reports.htm>
3. Value Chain Analysis for Development <https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/value-chain-analysis-for-development-vca4d->
4. AGRINATURA <http://agrinatora-eu.eu/>
5. Mali (rice) <https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/value-chain-analysis-for-development-vca4d/wiki/21-mali-rice>
6. The private sector <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/28041/143315.pdf>

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

I. Rural youth in the organisation's policies or strategies

Supporting rural youth empowerment is a part of FAO's [decent rural employment work](#)¹. FAO collaborates with other UN agencies, particularly the ILO, and networks such as the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development, the International Partnership for Cooperation on Child Labour in Agriculture, and the Global Migration Group.


II. Entry points and approaches to empower youth in programmes/projects

FAO supports a vast number of countries globally with tailored interventions relating to rural youth and rural youth employment, in both resilience and development contexts. Examples of activities at country level include:

- ▶ **Provision of policy advice and facilitation of policy dialogue for youth-inclusive development of food systems.** FAO developed an Integrated Country Approach for [promoting decent rural employment](#)², which focuses on strengthening the capacities of national institutions responsible for agriculture and labour, as well as on inclusive policy dialogue and evidence-based decision-making. So far, the approach has been implemented in five countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America.
- ▶ **Field testing and developing new models to support youth engagement in the agricultural sector**, e.g. the [private and public partnership model for youth employment in agriculture](#)³ (Tanzania, Zanzibar); the MIJA platforms as a model for agribusiness support (Senegal); the VUMErural as a model for rural-adapted employment services and the Social Entrepreneurship Factory (Guatemala); the Youth Inspiring Youth in Agriculture Initiative to enhance youth peer-to-peer support (Uganda); the platform [Chisparural.GT](#)⁴ (Guatemala) and the National [Observatory for Rural Decent Employment](#)⁵ (Senegal) to facilitate youth access to employment and agricultural information through the use of ICTs.
- ▶ **Facilitating the development of dedicated strategies to support youth engagement in agriculture or the integration of rural youth issues into broader policies and strategies**, e.g. the National Rural Youth Employment Policy in Senegal; the [Youth Employment in Agriculture Strategy](#)⁶ in Uganda or the Regional Agenda for Rural Youth in Latin America and the Caribbean; but also the prioritization of rural entrepreneurship and youth objectives in the Decent Work Policy in Guatemala and in the National Extension and Fisheries Policies and Strategies in Uganda.
- ▶ **Addressing the needs of youth under 18** to prepare for and access decent work in agriculture, for example through improving safety and health at work (that prevents hazardous child labour), financial literacy, and assessing and addressing skills needs and legal barriers in collaboration with government and local producers' organisations.

An important feature of the FAO approach is the **increasing engagement with youth organisations as co-implementers**. For example in Senegal, the 'Integrated Country Approach programme' established a partnership with the youth-led organisation [Yeasal Agri Hub](#)⁷ for the conceptualization and technical setup of the National Observatory of Rural Employment.





FAO has developed and incorporated a set of tools and resources in an **Online Toolbox**⁸, which includes a youth employment module as part of the e-learning course on **promoting productive employment and decent work in rural areas**⁹ and a **Policy Database**¹⁰ on current policies, programmes and studies. Other knowledge materials focus on specific countries e.g. **Analysis of existing approaches for rural youth employment in Uganda**¹¹.

In addition, considering that rural youth aged 15 to 17 deserve special attention due to their transformative child-youth status, FAO supports them to access decent work and prevents child labour through the integration of child labour considerations in programmes and policies for rural development. Key knowledge resources on these interventions are the **Handbook for monitoring and evaluating child labour in agricultural programmes**¹² and the visual guide 'Protect Children from pesticides!'. Together with ILO, FAO has also launched the e-learning course 'End child labour in agriculture'¹³.

FAO's work areas on **migration**¹⁴ and rural youth employment are closely connected. The lack of decent employment is one of the main reasons youth leave rural areas. In Tunisia and Ethiopia, FAO implemented the project **Youth mobility, food security and rural poverty reduction**¹⁵, which piloted innovative mechanisms for the creation of rural youth employment as an alternative to migration; contributed to mainstreaming migration in agriculture and rural development strategies; and generated knowledge on **how to address migration at its root causes**¹⁶. In **Senegal**¹⁷, FAO is collecting evidence on migration dynamics and impacts on agriculture, as well as on job creation potential in the rural economy while supporting the government to harness the positive impact of migration for overall development (e.g. through the productive use of remittances).

III. Some lessons learned and moving forward

The strength of the FAO approach lies in the integrated nature of its core functions and geographical levels of implementation. The mechanisms are flexible, interventions are tailored to country demands, and capacity development needs are identified through in-depth scoping exercises. A particular emphasis is placed on the active engagement of youth in policy dialogue.

The way forward includes: (i.) scaling up and boosting programmatic coordination; (ii.) producing further evidence of the impact and job creation potential of agricultural value chains; and (iii.) further strengthening support for countries in terms of prevention of youth radicalisation, specifically in key vulnerable contexts and rural areas.

Key success factors:

- ▶ **Careful assessment of knowledge gaps and country demands.** In order to promote evidence-based and country-owned interventions, particular methodologies have been developed for conducting a **context analysis**¹⁸ and a **capacity needs assessment**¹⁹.
- ▶ **Getting youth beneficiaries on board from the very beginning, as partners, champions and service providers.** The innovation potential of youth's direct engagement is huge, not only to ensure the sustainability of results but also to push forward the modernisation of communication strategies, approaches and tools, with potential extended benefits for the broader FAO work programme.
- ▶ **Continue to pursue greater programmatic coordination and capacity development at national and local levels** to ensure ownership and long-term sustainability. With

stronger institutions, youth organisations and networks, more aware and engaged young people will be able to monitor government commitments in the future.

- ▶ **Modernisation of communication strategies and use of ICTs** (including social media and mobile phones), building on diagnostics of youth communication habits and preferences.

Web references:

1. FAO's decent rural employment work <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7322e.pdf>
2. ICA promoting decent rural employment <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7322e.pdf>
3. PPP model for youth employment in agriculture <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4118e.pdf>
4. Chisparural.GT <http://chisparural.gt/>
5. Observatory for Rural Employment (ONER) <https://www.facebook.com/ONERFAO>
6. Youth Employment in Agriculture Strategy [http://www.scan.ug/edward/NATIONAL_STRATEGY_FOR_YOUTH_EMPLOYMENT_IN_AGRICULTURE_\(INSYEA\)_FINAL-2017.pdf](http://www.scan.ug/edward/NATIONAL_STRATEGY_FOR_YOUTH_EMPLOYMENT_IN_AGRICULTURE_(INSYEA)_FINAL-2017.pdf)
7. Yeesal Agri Hub <http://yeesalhub.org/>
8. Online Toolbox <http://www.fao.org/rural-employment/toolbox/en/>
9. E-learning course on promoting productive employment and decent work in rural areas <http://www.fao.org/elearning/#/elc/en/course/DRE>
10. Policy Database <http://fao.org/rural-employment/policies/en>
11. Analysis of existing approaches for rural youth employment in Uganda <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7484e.pdf>
12. Handbook for monitoring and evaluating child labour in agricultural programmes <http://fao.org/3/a-i4630e.pdf>
13. E-learning course 'End child labour in agriculture' <http://www.fao.org/elearning/#/elc/en/course/CL>
14. Migration <http://www.fao.org/rural-employment/work-areas/migration/en/>
15. Project 'Youth mobility, food security and rural poverty reduction' <http://www.fao.org/rural-employment/work-areas/migration/rym-project/en/>
16. How to address migration at its root causes <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5718e.pdf>
17. In Senegal <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7932f.pdf>
18. A context analysis <http://www.fao.org/3/a-av094e.pdf>
19. A capacity needs assessment <http://www.fao.org/3/a-av093e.pdf>



France Ministry of Foreign Affairs and French Development Agency

I. Rural youth in the organisation's policies or strategies

In 2015, France developed the [Policy Paper 'Acting for Youth'](#)¹ around four priorities: (i.) development of skills and talents for civic life and decent work; (ii.) access to health; (iii.) rural development generating opportunities for young people; and (iv.) support for youth volunteering and mobility.

The geographic focus of France's interventions is Sub-Saharan Africa and the Mediterranean Basin.

II. Entry points and approaches to empower youth in programmes/projects

France places emphasis on four main entry points to empower youth in its projects: access to production factors, socioeconomic integration, capacity building, and participation in community life. Youth are either the main target group or one of a set of target groups of projects.

Access to production factors

When youth have access to production factors, rural areas become more attractive to them. This needs to entail, for instance, adequate access to land and effective irrigation systems to incentivise long-term investment.

In Niger (Tahoua and Agadez regions), the French Development Agency (AFD) funds the improvement of agricultural value chains for local and regional markets. This includes the development of arable lands accessible to young people (land restoration, development of hydraulic infrastructures).

Socio-economic integration

[Agricultural and rural development creates opportunities for youth empowerment and integration](#)². Thus, it is crucial to support the creation of decent jobs at all levels of the value chain, from production to sale:

- ▶ The regional project 'Resilac' (Redressement économique et social du Lac Tchad) covers Niger, Nigeria, Chad and Cameroon. It aims to support the creation of youth employment. Since 2016, 107 MSMEs have been supported, 6,400 people have benefited from professional trainings (TVET) and highly labour-intensive utility public works have been implemented.
- ▶ The project 'Jeunesse Diffa' in Niger is designed to foster youth socioeconomic insertion in a crisis context.
- ▶ Access to credit is central to helping young farmers and agri-entrepreneurs develop their activities. AFD has launched a new initiative [AGREENFI](#)³ to enable the financing of rural activities.

Capacity building

AFD supports agricultural and rural training systems. The objective of these is to build the capacity of executives, technicians, future farmers and their professional organisations, but also to make agricultural and rural activities more attractive and to improve living conditions in rural areas. Programmes promote the vocational and social integration of new generations and contribute to sustainable growth in agricultural

production in the context of environmentally friendly practices. AFD pays particular attention to family farming, which remains the best vehicle for food security and youth employment in a number of developing and emerging countries.

One of AFD's flagship projects is in Cameroon. In 2016, France and Cameroon signed a debt cancellation contract, which includes 40 million Euros earmarked for agricultural and rural training. A network of about one hundred training centres upgraded their services by: promoting apprenticeship programmes; ensuring a better alignment of the programmes with the agricultural calendar; and defining career paths. The programme aims to train 12,500 young people (including 5,000 women) and to support the social and vocational integration of 9,000 people. As a consequence, 50,000 farms will benefit from new skills.

Additionally, AFD funds the ART Network (Réseau Formation Agricole et Rurale), initiated by training professionals during an international meeting on 'Massive training in rural areas' in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, in 2005. The ART network's mission is to support its member countries' efforts to upgrade their training systems. This mission is embodied in a strategic plan²⁶, articulated around four broad orientations: (i.) support for the structuring and governance of the national ART network; (ii.) capacity building; (iii.) communication and advocacy; and (iv.) knowledge creation.

Participation in community life

Youth empowerment is also achieved through their participation and engagement in decision-making bodies of producer organisations or local institutions. Both the Resilac and Diffa projects aim at fostering youth civil and political engagement.

III. Some lessons learned and moving forward

Programmes and projects must respond to the dual challenge of empowering rural youth and improving the potential economic attractiveness and living conditions of rural areas. This implies moving from a sectorial to a territorial approach.

Services of Agricultural and Rural Training systems need to be upgraded and offer training programmes adapted to the diversified needs and characteristics of young people (different education levels, various socioeconomic contexts).

Improved coordination between public, private and civil society stakeholders is crucial to ensuring the relevance of the trainings offered and the sustainability of an agricultural training system that empowers young people.

Web references:

1. Policy paper 'Acting for Youth'
https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/Strategie_Jeunesse_GB_Web_cle02292e.pdf
2. <https://www.afd.fr/en/sahelian-youth-dynamics-exclusion-means-integration>
3. Initiative AGREENFI
<https://www.afd.fr/en/agreenfi-afd-groups-agricultural-and-rural-finance-label>

²⁶ <http://www.reseau-far.com/fr/the-agricultural-and-rural-training-network/>





International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

I. Rural youth in the organisation's policies or strategies

IFAD's focus on rural youth has increased steadily in recent years. In 2017, rural youth was made a new corporate priority along with climate change, nutrition and gender. In its [2016-2025 Strategic Framework, Enabling Inclusive and Sustainable Rural Transformation](#)¹, IFAD indicates its intention to more consistently incorporate the needs and aspirations of young people into its operations and to pay closer attention to identifying and creating rural employment and enterprise options for youth in both the farm and non-farm sectors. In 2018, IFAD intends to develop a Youth Action Plan, establish a Youth Advisory Council and initiate a series of stocktaking exercises to prepare the 2019 IFAD Rural Development Report on the topic of rural youth.

II. Entry points and approaches to empower youth in programmes/projects

Some projects tackle the issue of [access to land](#)²⁷ by intentionally allocating plots to rural young people²⁷ in Senegal and Togo, or by promoting agro-based activities that require small areas of land or no land. However, most projects focus on employment creation, capacity development and access to finance, with a strong **value chain approach**. IFAD-funded projects focus on self-employment and opportunities for wage/salary employment in the farm and non-farm sectors.

The provision of **technical and vocational training** increasingly combines technical, managerial and financial skills. Trainings may take different forms: long-cycle training at a centre or through apprenticeships (mainly young men); training sessions at a local venue that are more appropriate for young girls; short skills-upgrading courses; and peer-to-peer learning (e.g. farmer-field-schools, mentorship, [Learning Routes](#)³).

An innovative approach adopted in Madagascar, Vietnam and Rwanda involves the recruitment of beneficiary entrepreneurs as host enterprises for apprenticeships lasting 6 or 12 months. As an incentive, host enterprises (and apprentices) receive a monthly indemnity²⁷ from the project and are eligible for equipment grants and/or financing to improve their workplace.

In certain countries, the provision of **business development services** is provided to young people through proximity business advisory centres (in Senegal, Madagascar and Ghana). The use of ICT tools is increasing for the delivery of financial and entrepreneurial education programmes (OPORTUNIDADES in Colombia) and for knowledge sharing with and between young people. Trainings on marketing, branding and certification are also provided (Regional project: Capacity Building for Resilient Agriculture in the Pacific).

Most projects provide some form of **financial support** to youth. This is often associated with **capacity building** of staff from partner financial institutions and, more importantly, **training youth in financial literacy**, preparation of business plans and negotiation of loan applications. Solidarity credit groups have been highly successful in improving access of youth – especially women – to credit. In other cases, seed capital, soft loans or matching grants are selected to support young people.

In many projects, young people are encouraged to create or join **common interest** groups around agriculture or to organise themselves into **credit and savings groups** ('Skills Enhancement for Employment Programme' in Nepal). In other cases, the entry

²⁷ IFAD-supported 'Agricultural Value Chains Support Project'

point is local sports and cultural associations²⁸. Projects in El Salvador and Colombia²⁹ have developed a particularly strong participatory approach to **supporting young rural micro-entrepreneurs**. In certain cases, projects have supported the creation of incubation centres and the design of a specific pathway for youth to create their enterprises (e.g. 'Community-Based Natural Resources Management Programme' in Nigeria).

In Latin America, IFAD has supported the formation and **strengthening of national and regional youth networks** that can engage in policy dialogue (project 'Promoting Young People's Entrepreneurship in Poor Rural Territories in Latin America and the Caribbean'). By 2016, when the project was completed, more than 5000 young people (more than half of whom were young women) were involved in activities of rural youth networks across the continent.

III. Some lessons learned and moving forward

In 2014, IFAD undertook a [review of 19 IFAD-financed projects](#)⁴ with strong pro-youth features from 11 countries, as well as an [Evaluation Synthesis on rural youth](#)⁵. The review highlighted the importance of targeting different youth cohorts and of analysing the opportunities and constraints of each subgroup to design the most appropriate interventions. Projects were able to expand their outreach to girls and young women, for example by including quotas and making their participation an eligibility criterion for project funding³⁰. Similarly, working with separate age groups (under and over 18) and conducting sensitisation with parents has proved helpful.

Successful projects have established management set-ups where youth have had the opportunity to participate in project decisions, e.g. by participating in project steering committees or village bodies. Young people have the potential to become innovators of technical and social innovations if they receive the right support to engage in meaningful and profitable activities, for instance in sustainable agriculture, the food economy and other attractive sectors (eco-tourism, green technology) with linkages between rural and urban areas.

In 2015, the IFAD youth desk has embarked on a stocktaking exercise to map IFAD's engagement with youth in its programme of loans and grants. The sample included all IFAD operations funded in the period 2005–2015 and considered projects with components or sub-components that referred to youth or included youth in the target group as well as projects whose theme addressed youth issues. As of January 2017, the sample included 83 projects (both ongoing and completed). This initial stocktake indicated that IFAD projects with some degree of youth engagement focus mainly on employment generation, followed by capacity building/vocational training interventions and financial inclusion. A minority of projects also target institutional strengthening of youth organisations and inclusion of youth in natural resource management. The stocktake is a living document and is updated regularly.

In 2017, the Youth Desk developed a publication comprising a series of emerging good practices that were inventoried in the initial stocktaking exercise. The publication *IFAD's engagement with Rural Youth: case studies from IFAD loans and grants* (available from March 2018) uses an in-depth desk review of project documents and interviews with staff to document youth-focused projects that stand out with regards to innovation

28 IFAD-supported 'Agricultural Value Chains Support Project' (PAFA)

29 PRODEMORO, El Salvador.

30 PRODEMORO, El Salvador.



and that deliver crucial lessons and results. Out of the 15 selected case studies, six focus on building the capacity of rural youth and nine on their financial inclusion. The study concludes that youth are ready to live in rural areas and engage in agriculture if the activities generate high returns on investment, have short gestation periods, confer business ownership on them and lead to opportunities for social linkages.

Web references:

1. 2016–2025 Strategic Framework, Enabling Inclusive and Sustainable Rural Transformation <https://webapps.ifad.org/members/eb/116/docs/EB-2015-116-R-4-Rev-1.pdf>
2. Access to land https://static.globalinnovationexchange.org/s3fs-public/asset/document/lt_lesson_youth.pdf?A3wiM2x31gyEpDBtThsNrFcBP3BJ9HCY
3. Learning Route 'Networks, articulation and strategies for the sustainable inclusion of young people in rural development initiatives' El Salvador and Colombia, 2016 http://americalatina.procasur.org/images/Ruta_Salvador_Colombia_EN_V2.pdf
4. Review of 19 IFAD-financed projects https://ypard.net/sites/default/files/legacy_files/Youth_Lessons_EN.pdf
5. Evaluation Synthesis on rural youth <https://www.ifad.org/documents/10180/67ae896a-ca03-49be-a3a0-efaed4a78987>

International Trade Centre (ITC)

I. Rural youth in the organisation's policies or strategies

The ITC highlights youth as a privileged target group in its [Strategic Plan 2018–2021](#)¹. The objective is to build market-relevant skills for 100,000 youth and to work with local institutions supporting young entrepreneurs. There is no specific focus on rural youth but a recent trend towards programmes targeting rural areas.

ITC's work on youth prioritizes sectors that have a high potential for generating employment and inclusive growth, such as agriculture, green economy and services.


II. Entry points and approaches to empower youth in programmes/projects

While specific programmes on youth are recent (e.g. ITC's 'Youth and Trade programme' and the 'Gambia Youth Empowerment Project'), there is a perception that programmes supporting agribusiness and rural development will also benefit rural populations and poor communities including youth. However, there is no systematic breakdown of programme beneficiaries by age. The current objective is to integrate a youth focus across the ITC portfolio. Entry points of ITC programmes include **supporting entrepreneurship** and **skills development; linking micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) to markets**; and integration into value chains. Some programmes target **refugees and young migrants**.

The [ITC's Youth and Trade programme](#)² has a strong focus on building skills for entrepreneurship and aims to increase the income opportunities available to young entrepreneurs, especially through trade. The approach combines supporting institutions that can offer training and advisory services to young entrepreneurs. It involves working with policy makers to consider the youth dimension in trade strategies and facilitate linkages between young entrepreneurs and market opportunities.

In 2017, the ITC and the EU launched [The Gambia Youth Empowerment Project](#)³ to boost job creation and support long-term economic sustainability in Gambia. The project focuses on rural areas. It takes a market-led approach to improving the skills and employability of potential and returning migrants according to demands of the job market and simultaneously creating employment opportunities along Gambian agricultural value chains. The project concentrates on sectors that have the largest potential for employment creation, such as agribusiness, service and tourism.

To support inclusive and sustainable agribusiness and trade as a pathway to employment creation, ITC developed the [Alliance for Action methodology](#)⁴. The methodology is based on four pillars: (i.) understanding local, regional and global value chains, (ii.) establishing multi-level public-private alliances to strengthen promising value chains, (iii.) providing technical capacity building through peer-to-peer extension, and leading farmer-enterprise cluster-based learning systems, and (iv.) improving access to financial services and impact investment in value chains. One of the sustainability elements of this methodology is social and economic upgrading, which specifically mentions the empowerment of women and youth in targeted rural communities. Following this methodology in Ghana, ITC is working in collaboration with Fair Trade Africa, cocoa trading companies and agro-processing SMEs to enhance income diversification and reduce risk of 300 smallholders who farm a combination of food and cash crops. The objective of this initiative is employment generation and social and economic empowerment of youth.



Finally, in 2016, ITC supported the organisation of an international forum that highlighted the New Generation programme launched in 2012 by the Inter-professional Cocoa and Coffee Council (CICC) of Cameroon to rejuvenate cocoa farms and lower the average age of cocoa farmers in Cameroon. The New Generation programme facilitates the recruitment and supervision of young people who are interested in the production of cocoa, on the condition that each of them commits to creating a hectare of cocoa farm every year for a period of three years. During this supervision period, the CICC provides the young recruits with everything they need to become cocoa farmers, free of charge.

III. Some lessons learned and moving forward

Some important elements for attracting youth to the agricultural sector involve the provision of adequate support (technical, financial) and mentoring; the prospect of a decent income (linkages to profitable value chains); and a better social status (importance of role models). However, different strategies need to be designed for different cohorts of youth, depending for example on their level of education and their access to 'enough' land (land fragmentation is a major issue). Taking an agribusiness and value chain approach widens the spectrum of employment opportunities that can be attractive to different youth cohorts.

The quality of providers of technical and vocational training and advisory services is crucial for the support of young agripreneurs. Usually, however, the youth that benefit the most are those who have higher levels of education and access to resources outside rural areas. Service providers in rural areas are still too often underequipped with access to electricity and Internet and propose curricula that do not match the needs of markets.

It is important to combine programmes that invest in the creation of employment opportunities with investments in improving the living conditions of rural areas and intermediary towns (e.g. basic services, recreational and leisure services).

Engaging with the private sector is critical to strengthening promising value chains and to contributing to the transformation of rural areas. In addition, it is important to assist companies in investing with a clear social and environmental perspective and commitment to inclusive growth.

ICTs are playing an increasingly important role in connecting entrepreneurs to markets (e.g. SheTrades.com, agrocenta.com) and different actors along a value chain.

Web references:

1. Strategic Plan 2018–2021 http://www.intracen.org/uploadedFiles/intracenorg/Content/About_ITC/Corporate_Documents/Strategic_Plan/Strategic_plan_2018-21.pdf
2. ITC's Youth and Trade programme <http://www.intracen.org/youth/>
3. The Gambia Youth Empowerment Project <http://www.intracen.org/yep/>
4. Alliance for Action (A4A) methodology <https://www.donorplatform.org/news-inclusive-agribusiness-and-trade/international-trade-centre-itc-new-alliances-for-value-chain-competitiveness.html>

Italian International Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)

I. Rural youth in the organisation's policies or strategies

AICS supports youth under the priority area 'human rights'. Rural youth is not mentioned specifically but programmes implemented in rural areas are expected to engage proactively with youth. The Agency pays particular attention to education and children's wellbeing issues and, more recently, to youth migration and refugees.

II. Entry points and approaches to empower youth in programmes/projects

With regards to **regional and international youth migration**, those projects executed by local authorities promote diaspora networking in order to improve safe transit and to create jobs in the countries of origin with a special focus on women and youth (Senegal, Burkina Faso and Somalia). In other partner countries, the objective is to sustain economic development through MSMEs and access to microcredit in order to **foster women and youth employability** (Senegal, Egypt).

Projects implemented in rural areas focus on **education and vocational training** to improve employability skills, as well as access to **microcredit and social innovations** (Caribbean). In this context, AICS has trained thousands of rural youth in Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Mediterranean region. A good share of those has entered into private and public structures at a more qualified level.

Projects that assist the development of **value chains** include youth as a target group, with the support from the private sector (Central America).

Another model of engagement with youth is through their participation in the design and implementation of Italy's bilateral interventions (e.g. 'Retejuven' in Guatemala, 'Youth In' in the Caribbean and 'Mosaico Lab' in Lebanon). Young people are being involved in the monitoring of social projects. The objective is to have youth engaging at early stages of the project cycle so that their ideas can shape interventions. AICS supports youth as 'collectors' of innovative experiences (Agrinovia¹) to be channelled into research and applied directly by NGOs, governments and the private sector.

III. Some lessons learned and moving forward

A model to support youth should include the use of ICTs and support for young farmers' organisations to engage in different segments of value chains—production, processing and direct sales activities. Sharing successful experiences of young farmers with other youth and facilitating networking among them can change their perception of agriculture.

NGOs play an important role in supporting youth in their context using community-based approaches and building on existing opportunities in agriculture and non-farm sectors.

Only direct participation of youth in all project cycle phases and governance bodies will ensure sustainability of interventions. This point was highlighted at ASIC's last Conference on Development Cooperation with a recommendation to have youth represented in its National Council on Development Cooperation.

Web references:

1. Agrinovia <http://www.agrinovia.net>





KfW- German Development Bank

I. Rural youth in the organisation's policies or strategies

KfW implements financial cooperation on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), with the goal of reducing poverty while creating a favourable environment. The issue of youth employment has become a priority and a crosscutting issue for KfW as a result of BMZ's recently increased focus on this topic. Youth employment is addressed particularly in the context of conflict, refugees and migration, and with a major focus on Africa and the MENA region.

KfW Development Bank promotes employment³¹ in its partner countries through projects and programmes, which make a direct and indirect contribution to creating more and better jobs.

II. Entry points and approaches to empower youth in programmes/projects

Projects that include construction or rehabilitation of infrastructure contribute directly to employment because they usually employ local workers in the construction phase. Additionally, such projects may influence employment along the entire value chain because construction materials and machinery are required to build roads for example. Building roads not only has a direct effect on job creation, it also indirectly affects suppliers. However, a third type of employment effect is even more important—improved infrastructure but also more effective financial systems and education institutions facilitate the establishment and growth of companies that create jobs.

With regards to youth empowerment, a major entry point relates to **education³² and skills development**, particularly **TVET interventions**.

In order to extend the capacities for vocational training and relevant training courses, KfW finances the **construction, expansion and equipment of vocational training facilities**. It also supports the facilities' management and teaching staff. To promote equality, scholarships and educational loans are helping to make vocational training more accessible to underprivileged adolescents. In close cooperation with KfW, GIZ advises school administrations or ministries of education, e.g. with regards to introducing nationwide certification and qualification systems.

It has proven extremely important to adapt the planning and practice of vocational training to economic needs. This implies that training courses in vocational schools and private businesses have to be aligned with the requirements and demands of the labour market. Consequently, the respective government and the private sector need to jointly consider how educational reforms can be designed.

Adolescents can only attend an institution of higher education if they are able to afford it. Unfortunately, the majority of them are not able to pay the expenses. Against this background, KfW Development Bank offers **demand-side financed education** programmes for which it is able to draw on its extensive experience in the distribution of domestic student loans. Demand-side financed education means that resources are directly allocated among the target group. The instruments provided include student or training loans, scholarships or education vouchers for students as well as cash

31 <https://www.kfw-entwicklungsbank.de/PDF/Entwicklungsfinanzierung/Themen-NEU/Wachstum-und-Besch%C3%A4ftigung-Besch%C3%A4ftigung-EN-2014.pdf>

32 Education portfolio analysis 2016 https://www.kfw-entwicklungsbank.de/PDF/Download-Center/PDF-Dokumente-Positionspapiere/2016_Portfolioanalyse_Bildung_EN.pdf

transfers for impoverished families. These projects target talented yet impoverished children and adolescents to enable them to continue onto the next educational level in order to gain a professional qualification.

This relatively new approach of financial cooperation (FC) is of great importance to many governments, as they have to address the question of how higher education can be financed with a growing number of applicants. Demand-side financed education assists states in a cost-sharing approach to ensure equitable access to education. On behalf of the BMZ, for example, KfW provides regional funds in Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa that offer student loans through micro-finance institutions. Examples of other FC projects include offering scholarships to secondary school children in Kenya and students in Guatemala, as well as vouchers for vocational training in Ghana.

Another entry point is the **financial cooperation with microfinance institutions** targeting mainly SMEs. However, these programmes do not have a specific focus on youth. More closely related to the needs of youth are start-up loans combined with TVET interventions or business training programmes.

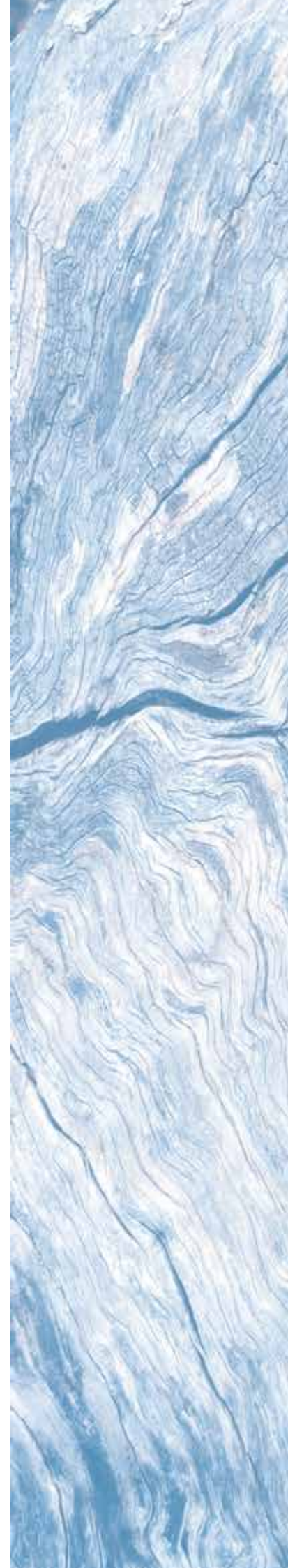
III. Some lessons learned and moving forward

There is a need to better understand how KfW interventions on education and vocational training can lead to decent employment of youth. The collection of age-disaggregated data is necessary to understand the current situation and inform pathways for moving forward.

New programmes are engaging further with the private sector, looking more at the demand side of employment for youth. Finding appropriate means of collaborating with the private sector is challenging and lengthy and needs to include incentive mechanisms to promote employment. A youth dimension needs to be included in the design of such mechanisms to ensure that young people can benefit.

The traditional rural-urban migration model is becoming less and less relevant³³. Any solution to the employment problem must consider all possibilities for creating productive jobs in the city as well as in rural areas. Promoting youth employment in rural areas requires a combination of measures: vocational training, improved access to finance, and improvement of infrastructures (roads, energy supply and internet access) in order to boost the appeal of rural locations.

³³ Development in Brief "Solutions to youth unemployment: rural areas are just as important as cities" (14.06.2017). Retrieved from <https://www.kfw-entwicklungsbank.de/International-financing/KfW-Development-Bank/Publications-Videos/Publications-by-topic/Growth-and-employment/>





Luxembourg Development Cooperation Agency (LuxDev)

I. Rural youth in the organisation's policies or strategies

The focus areas of the Luxembourg cooperation and its agency LuxDev are health, education, TVET, water and sanitation as well as local and rural development. LuxDev does not have a specific and official youth-related strategy. However, youth and women (in addition to poor households) are the key target groups in a vast majority of projects.

II. Entry points and approaches to empower youth in programs/projects

The main entry point to supporting youth in rural development projects is a combination of:

- ▶ **Promoting access to TVET** in order to enhance employability or self-employment, and
- ▶ **Facilitating access to income-generating activities** (agriculture and artisanship), e.g. in Senegal, Niger, Mali, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam and Nicaragua. The supported sectors are mainly agriculture and small entrepreneurship in Africa and ecotourism in Asia and Latin America.

On the demand side, LuxDev is trying to promote the active involvement of different actors in the planning and management of training interventions: local rural associations; agriculture and agribusiness industries; and local authorities responsible for land property and distribution.

On the supply side, market and value chain analyses are required to identify where employment opportunities exist and to adapt training programmes adequately (matching skills to market demand).

III. Some lessons learned and moving forward

In certain cases, keeping the training centres running after a project ends has been difficult due to lack of funding and ownership. The main challenge in this regard is transferring to training centres the financial and administrative autonomy that is required at the local level, coupled with the availability of adequate facilities (drillings, wells, electricity) and suitable equipment (for both agriculture and related off-rural jobs) as well as flexible, modular training material and programmes.

Based on these experiences, LuxDev is increasingly testing alternative options to the formal and publicly run TVET training centres by incorporating private actors and institutions into the system. The early engagement of the private sector is particularly important in the agricultural sector due to the absence or low quality of extension services in rural areas.

At macro-level, alternative funding in addition to the national budget is needed to give a permanent impetus to these training centres, thereby mobilising the private sector, NGOs, civil society, etc. Only then can the longevity of training centres and their pivotal role in the creation of jobs and enterprises be secured.

Access to land and land distribution schemes by governments and local authorities are crucial to enable youth employment in rural farming and off-farming jobs other than on households' parcels.

The current monitoring and evaluation systems of rural development projects need to be enhanced and include specific youth and employment related indicators in order to better understand the impact of interventions on rural youth.

Finally, some innovative approaches are currently putting youth at the centre of vocational training and employability interventions as an alternative to the institutional vocational training system. To this end, the inclusion of entrepreneurial skills modules in training curricula and programmes will be considered in a more systematic manner. The development of individual entrepreneurship should be pursued along with more and better support for the creation of social and sustainable enterprises relating to the provision of agricultural services as well as cooperatives.

Coordination between the ministry in charge of developing and implementing TVET programmes and technical line ministries (agriculture, environment, economy and commerce, etc.) is crucial for building relevant capacity development interventions while facilitating youth access to decent employment.





Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

I. Rural youth in the organisation's policies or strategies

Following a request from member countries, youth issues have become increasingly important in OECD's agenda. In 2013, OECD developed an [Action Plan for Youth](#)¹. This focuses on tackling unemployment and underemployment and providing youth with the skills and help they need to enter the labour market.

II. Entry points and approaches to empower youth in programmes/projects

The [Youth Inclusion Project \(2014–2018\)](#)² co-funded by the EU and implemented by the OECD Development Centre, looks at the situation of youth in developing countries using a well-being perspective. The project worked with nine countries (Cote d'Ivoire, Togo, Malawi, El Salvador, Peru, Vietnam, Cambodia, Moldova and Jordan) to carry out national and global studies on the themes of youth entrepreneurship, youth aspirations, rural youth livelihoods, early school dropout, sexual and reproductive health, civic participation and the cost of youth exclusion.

The activities implemented at country level were determined together with national governments, and included:

- ▶ Youth Well-being Policy Reviews and recommendations to improve national youth policies,
- ▶ national dialogue, and
- ▶ capacity building of national and local officers for youth programme monitoring and evaluation.

A practical [Toolkit](#)³ to assist developing and emerging economies to improve their national youth policies has been published.

III. Some lessons learned and moving forward

Insights from the national Youth Well-being Policy Reviews of the Youth Inclusion Project include:

- ▶ **Skills mismatch** is perhaps the most challenging problem faced by the labour market in developing countries. There is also a mismatch between youth career aspirations and the reality of the labour market. Efforts to address this issue rarely focus on engaging youth in agriculture. Identifying and supporting champions within ministries and in decentralised governmental service structures is important to ensure sustainability.
- ▶ **Civic participation** is far from being an activity or right enjoyed by all youth. Youth participation in policy dialogues is weak and rarely representative of youth diversity, in particular of rural youth. When national youth councils exist, they often do not include rural youth representatives. Special attention and support is needed to build rural youth self-confidence and leadership skills so that they can actively engage in policy processes. Identifying and supporting 'youth' champions within ministries increases the chances of recommendations being followed up.

- ▶ **Entrepreneurship is not suited for all.** Only a small portion of young entrepreneurs in developing countries succeeds and the vast majority are confined to subsistence activities. Successful entrepreneurs tend to possess business skills, a higher level of education and access to finance. Moreover, they generally operate in the formal sector.
- ▶ There is scope to create new **jobs in the food sector**. However, agriculture, value chains and rural development-related programmes need to be more youth-oriented in their design and have a more explicit youth employment objective.
- ▶ The importance of **sexual and reproductive health** for adolescents and young people, especially young women, is largely underestimated.

For OECD member countries and some emerging economies, the OECD carries out country reviews on youth employment and school-to-work transitions through its *Investing in Youth*⁴ series.

Web references:

1. Action Plan for Youth <http://www.oecd.org/employment/action-plan-youth.htm>
2. Youth Inclusion Project <http://www.oecd.org/dev/inclusivesocietiesanddevelopment/youth-inclusion-project-about.htm>
3. Toolkit http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/development/evidence-based-policy-making-for-youth-well-being_9789264283923-en;jsessionid=1c6fw50ibdu9.x-oecd-live-03
4. 'Investing in Youth' http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/employment/investing-in-youth_24126357





Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)

I. Rural youth in the organisation's policies or strategies and policy

SIDA's focus work areas include human rights, democracy, environment and climate change. In addition, SIDA pays special attention to child protection and young people's rights.

II. Entry points and approaches to empower youth in programmes/projects

SIDA facilitates policy dialogues to advocate for **child protection and young people's rights**. The agency developed guidelines to conduct [dialogues on the rights of children and young people](#)¹ and to promote [young people's political participation](#)².

In Tanzania, SIDA supports the **primary and secondary education system**. In addition, the 'Agricultural Markets Development Trust' programme in Tanzania focuses on vocational training to enhance youth employability and support young people to start and run businesses. In parallel, it contributes to the development of value chains using the 'Making Markets Work Better for the Poor' (M4P) approach.

In Zambia, SIDA supports programmes targeting **youth in agriculture**, e.g. [the Rural Youth Enterprise for Food Security RYE-FS initiative](#)³, in partnership with ILO and FAO. The programme follows the M4P approach. In addition, SIDA supports the Ministry of Health on maternal health issues and on the promotion of SRHR, with a particular focus on adolescents.

In Kenya, SIDA is part of the **Joint Sub-Sector Working Group on TVET and Youth Employment**. The objective of this group is to better understand the work that donors are undertaking on TVET and youth employment in Kenya in order to enhance coordination in the sector. As an example of a SIDA-supported project in Kenya, the 'Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme' provides support for the commercialisation of small-scale agriculture through priority value chain development with a particular focus on youth and women. SIDA's 'Inclusive Growth through Decent Work in the Great Rift Valley' project (public-private development partnership) aims at improving living conditions through decent work and the delivery of rights-based services to the rural population, focusing on youth. This project has three components: (i.) decent jobs resulting from improved skills gained through vocational training, (ii.) decent jobs and new and growing businesses resulting from the development of relevant skills, business development services and access to finance, and (iii.) communities having the capacity to lobby for increased access to public and social services, e.g. water, education, health and sanitation.

Finally, SIDA partnered with ILO on a [Youth Employment Programme](#)⁴ articulated around the following three elements:

1. Support and development of comprehensive employment strategies with an emphasis on youth employment.
2. Support for school-to-work transitions of young women and men.
3. Development and dissemination of knowledge products under the five policy areas of the [Call for Action](#)⁵ for youth employment adopted by the ILO in 2012.

In Moldova, the ILO/SIDA partnership supported the formulation of the national employment strategy for the period 2017–2021, with a youth employment component.

In Paraguay, the partnership supported the implementation of the youth employment law and policy and played an important role in increasing social dialogue and strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security.

III. Some lessons learned and moving forward

The lack of age-disaggregated data from programmes makes it difficult to have a clear overview of how SIDA is engaging with youth and what works for youth. A better understanding of how different youth cohorts can engage in agriculture is needed in order to provide tailored support.

Even when there are job opportunities in rural areas, youth may decide to leave. Beyond the rural-urban divide, SIDA is increasingly trying to look at the linkages between these spaces with many youth moving back and forth and young people working in urban areas sending money back to their villages.

Participation is not authentic when young people have neither clarity about nor influence over how their perspectives are taken up. The key to genuine participation is practicing respect for young people's views and ensuring that they know whether and how their concerns and recommendations will be taken into consideration.

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Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

I. Rural youth in the organisation's policies or strategies

The SDC developed a youth policy in 2007. More recently, the agency's *Dispatch 2017–2020*¹ notes that the top priorities of Switzerland's international cooperation remain the fight against poverty, support for peace and sustainable development. The dispatch highlights the importance of supporting the creation of jobs for young people.

Youth employment is included in the theme of private sector development, with a focus on three areas²: (i.) high-quality training adapted to the labour market, (ii.) efficient job placement services, and (iii.) incentives to improve working conditions, regulatory and economic market conditions.

II. Entry points and approaches to empower youth in programmes/projects

SDC has an employment and income (e+i) network, which provides a range of resources on youth-specific approaches³ to employment.

There is a strong focus on TVET, based on SDC's new *Education Strategy for Basic Education and Vocational Skills Development*⁴, with the aim of developing holistic learning approaches. The approaches link formal and non-formal learning (dual TVET approach combining theory and practice) and build on the 3+1 'P' principles of prevention, protection, promotion/empowerment and participation (including social and life skills).

TVET interventions⁵ are tailored to the needs of national and local contexts and target a range of sectors, including agriculture.

In Niger, for example, TVET was adapted to the needs of rural youth. The approach included upgrading existing training systems e.g. integrated agricultural training sites with practical courses in agriculture, livestock farming, market gardening and farm machinery, and community development training centres with courses for mechanics or carpenters, sewing or cooking. The programme used the dual vocational training approach where young people attend training while working in a company or workshop. Apprentices were able to acquire basic skills and take literacy courses. To help young people find a job after the training, the SDC supported the setting up of mobile job information centres accessible across the country. The objective was to offer young people guidance and support in pursuing their professional aspirations.

The *Opportunities for Youth Employment project*⁶ in Tanzania aims to improve youth livelihoods by creating employment opportunities in agribusiness, renewable energy, sanitation and hygiene sectors and to improve vocational skills delivery. The project collaborates with youth organisations, vocational training centres, local governments and business associations to identify young people who are out-of-school and unemployed and then coordinate with training providers.

The *Employment Fund*⁷ funded by SDC, UK Aid and the World Bank and implemented by Helvetas in Nepal takes an innovative approach of result-oriented payment to bring trained people into gainful employment.

The SDC also invests in rural market development projects to create job opportunities for all including youth. It uses the 'Making Markets Work for the Poor' approach (M4P approach⁸), e.g. in the project 'Katalyst' in Bangladesh, which identifies the barriers that prevent poor people's participation in markets and finds innovative solutions

to overcome those barriers through public-private partnership. The M4P approach can be applied in the areas of youth employment and agriculture to select crops that are more attractive for youth (short-term return, using low-cost technologies) and relevant to market realities.

III. Some lessons learned and moving forward

The critical factor in successful vocational skills development systems is close collaboration between the stakeholders and matching curricula with market needs. The private sector in particular is required to play an active role. Ideally, local companies will be involved throughout the entire training process, helping to shape curricula, taking on apprentices or delivering training modules and contributing to the certification and financing of training. For youth in rural areas, direct support and partnership with local institutions and youth organisations are a crucial part of relevant trainings (e.g. in Niger).

In rural areas, vocational skills development courses should be delivered close to where young people live (or include the provision of transportation to training facilities) or online, and at convenient times. For young mothers, there may be a need to provide childcare services. Examples of good practice include the 'Skill Franchise' in Nepal, the 'U-Learn' project in Tanzania/Uganda and Kosovo's 'Skills for Rural Employment'.

Combining supply-side interventions (TVET) with demand-side interventions (support for developing and structuring markets) is important for creating jobs.

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United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

I. Rural youth in the organisation's policies or strategies

In 2012, USAID launched a [Youth in Development Policy](#)¹ advocating for youth issues to be mainstreamed across all US development efforts. According to the policy, it is important that programmes: address both the demand and the supply side of job creation; promote self-employment and entrepreneurship; engage youth productively in agriculture and value chains; and expand access to services such as financial literacy and information communications technology, banking and credit.

In addition, youth is highlighted in the new [US Global Food Security Strategy](#)² as a crosscutting intermediate result, namely: Increased youth empowerment and livelihood.

II. Entry points and approaches to empower youth in programmes/projects

There is increasing focus on profiling different cohorts of youth, based on their gender, age (life stage approach including different age brackets: 10–14; 15–19; 20–24; 25–29), and social situation (looking at youth, their families and their communities). USAID is currently finalising project design guidelines to enhance youth inclusion across its Feed the Future portfolio.

USAID uses a [positive youth development](#)³ framework to design and implement youth responsive programmes. The framework focuses on four domains: assets (skills, competency and resources), agency, contribution and enabling environment. In addition, USAID supports [The Youth Power initiative](#)⁴, which includes a funding mechanism to incentivise more cross-sectorial programmes and to conduct research to build evidence on innovative youth programmes.

[Feed the Future](#)⁵, the US Government's hunger and food security initiative, aims to address the root causes of hunger, malnutrition and poverty. Several Feed the Future programmes deliberately target youth, e.g. 'Youth Leadership for Agriculture Activity' in Uganda and 'POTENTIAL' in Ethiopia, while many others include a sub-component targeting youth. Young people make important contributions to Feed the Future objectives and goals, including:

- ▶ contributing their entrepreneurial talents to value chain upgrading,
- ▶ engaging in mixed livelihoods strategies that contribute to household resilience, and
- ▶ acting as early adopters of new technologies that contribute to food systems resilience.

A 2016 report on [youth engagement in agricultural value chains across the 'Feed the Future'](#)⁶ initiative takes a closer look at interventions in Guatemala, Liberia, Nepal and Uganda. The report identifies value chain entry points for youth including on-farm and off-farm services (land preparation, post-harvest handling, tool production, input dealer, extension agent, transporter, trader, etc.).

Some Feed the Future programmes facilitated contracts and relationships between farmers, buyers and input suppliers. For example, in Nepal, the project facilitated a memorandum of understanding between agrovets and community business facilitators who serve as sales agents and disseminate technologies to rural areas. These facilitators are largely young people who receive seeds and other inputs on credit from

agrovets and sell them to farmers. The programme served as a guarantor for youth. In Uganda, pathways to mixed livelihoods were developed, taking agriculture and agribusiness as stepping stones to more opportunities that are profitable for young people. The 'MIPFuturo' project in Guatemala trains lead farmers to demonstrate integrated biological pest management techniques to smallholders in horticulture. Although the project does not specifically target youth, after the first year of implementation approximately half of its 300 lead farmers were under the age of 24.

In Tanzania, USAID funds the 'Youth Economic Empowerment Activity' (YEE⁷) implemented by SNV. The initiative takes a market-driven approach to empower young people with new skills and match them with job opportunities and works closely with the private sector to identify the knowledge, skills and labour needs of agribusinesses.

III. Some lessons learned and moving forward

The Youth Power platform brings together a wide range of studies and reports on the subject of *what works in youth and agriculture*⁸, food security and nutrition from USAID and other organisations' programmes.

A recent review of *USAID projects using the Positive Youth Development Approach*⁹ in low and middle-income countries identified the following key success features:

- ▶ Ensuring youth physical and psychological safety
- ▶ Providing opportunities for skills development and mastery
- ▶ Supportive adult relationships with strong links among families, schools and broader community resources
- ▶ Engaging youth not only in community activities but also in programme design, implementation and evaluation; increasing youth opportunities to make decisions, participate in governance and rule-making, and take on leadership roles as they mature and gain more expertise
- ▶ A sense of belonging and personal values; opportunities for youth to contribute to their community and to develop a sense of being important.

Feed the Future's new strategy for 2017–2021 is outlined in the *Global Food Security Strategy*¹⁰ and recognizes the imperative of harnessing the creativity and energy of youth in order to reach the goals of reducing poverty, hunger and malnutrition. Youth need to be understood and mainstreamed into US Government programming. In order to create better opportunities within agri-food systems for youth, the 'Global Food Security Strategy' prioritises "increased youth empowerment and livelihoods" across all objectives of its Intermediate Result (IR) 4. The upcoming *Feed the Future PROJECT DESIGN GUIDE FOR Youth-Inclusive Agriculture and Food Systems*, to be rolled out in May 2018, is expected to enhance the effective engagement of youth in agriculture programmes.

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World Bank (WB)

I. Rural youth in the organisation's policies or strategies

The World Bank's engagement in rural employment involves both projects/programmes and analytical and diagnostic work. Youth is mentioned across a number of papers on education, skills development, adolescent health and job creation. The World Bank Group 2017 annual report mentions youth as a priority group and in a recent paper on [Shaping the Food Systems to Deliver Jobs](#)¹, the Bank highlights the potential of food systems to create jobs, particularly for rural youth.

II. Entry points and approaches to empower youth in programmes/projects

The World Bank (WB) has undertaken analytical and diagnostic work on strategies for job creation in specific countries (e.g. in Cote d'Ivoire). Work is currently underway on informing WB project leaders to assist in the design and implementation of more integrated, cross-sectorial youth employment programmes.

One of the entry points is **skills development (TVET)** to increase youth employability, with a focus on adapting the trainings to what employers are seeking (market scans). For example, the [Andhra Pradesh Rural Poverty Reduction Programme](#)² in India aims to facilitate employment of rural youth in the formal non-agricultural sector. The programme recruits unemployed or underemployed youth from rural self-help groups, and offers an end-to-end employment solution: training, placement, post-placement support, alumni network, and rural retail academies. Students are matched for trainings according to their education level and interests.

Another approach is to support the **development of youth-led, locally driven enterprises** in agricultural and natural resource activities, which includes capacity building activities and access to markets and finance. A preliminary assessment identifies niche products and services that can be developed with a modest investment and improvement in existing skills (e.g. [Bhutan youth employment and community based enterprise development project](#)³).

Certain programmes combine two training tracks, one for **skills training to enhance youth employability** (by engaging training providers and private employers to develop curricula and to offer training and work experience); and another track for **self-employment/entrepreneurship**, e.g. the [Kenya Youth Employment and Opportunities](#)⁴ project uses a business plan competition to elicit business ideas with high job creation potential from young entrepreneurs. The winners receive seed funding to launch their business and follow-up support. The project also designed a youth-friendly entrepreneurship aptitude test to assess young people's motivation to engage in self-employment. Furthermore, it applies results-based contracting to select training providers. Another example under preparation is the 'West Africa Agricultural Transformation Project', which has a specific sub-component on innovation for youth. The project, when fully designed, will focus on scaling up the adoption of agricultural innovations and improved technologies to generate measurable employment opportunities for youth in food and agricultural ecosystems. It will focus both on the demand and supply sides for creating more, better and inclusive jobs for youth, taking into account the specific needs of youth and employers (both in the public and private sectors).

The approach of **providing both skills development** (soft, technical and business skills) and **start-up capital and inputs** (e.g. small agricultural tools/equipment,



improved seedlings and small ruminants/chicks for livestock or poultry farmers) is being replicated in a range of projects in Africa and Latin America to promote entrepreneurship and self-employment among less educated youth. Access to land is a precondition to develop agribusinesses and, to this end, projects usually formalise youth's access to land through contracting arrangements between each group and community or family landowners, or local authorities.

Although it does not focus on youth, WB's [Agribusiness Innovation Programme](#)⁵ may generate economic opportunities for rural youth. The programme aims to connect innovative, growth-oriented entrepreneurs to the knowledge, markets, networks and capital needed to advance their enterprises.

A particularly interesting programme funded by WB's [Youth Innovation Fund](#)⁶ and implemented in South Africa is [Young Women in Agriculture](#)⁷. This programme aims to expose young women from underserved communities to basic agro-ecology concepts, tangible organic farming skills and a variety of professional pathways in the sector. The approach focuses on experiential learning, peer-to-peer mentorship and hands-on field visits to **enhance young women's opportunities in farming and agricultural value chains**. Another women-focused programme is the [Adolescent Girls Initiative](#)⁸ implemented in eight countries, which provides a range of technical and non-technical skills (self-confidence, autonomy, aspirations and empowerment), and business skills. The [Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographics Project](#)⁹ aims to delay marriage and to expand access to reproductive, child and maternal health services by working with communities, including religious and traditional leaders. Some interventions include a policy advice component to strengthen youth policy development.

III. Some lessons learned and moving forward

Projects that match interventions with the situation and needs of different youth cohorts require a clear targeting strategy looking at dimensions such as age, gender, education levels and rural/urban settings. For example, evidence from Nigeria has shown that youth are most likely to become entrepreneurs between the ages of 29 and 35 and that these young entrepreneurs are likely to hire youth under 29 in the businesses they create. Rural young women face particular challenges in terms of time (double burden of household chores and economic activities), access to land and finance, social and cultural norms, early marriage and pregnancy, etc. These challenges need to be taken into account in project design to ensure young women benefit fully.

The shift towards combined supply- and demand-side employment projects is proving successful, with improved matching of skills with market needs, whether for wage employment or entrepreneurship. As such, it required an increased focus on bringing the private sector on board at an early stage, adapting curricula (e.g. including food safety and ICT modules), enhancing the capacity of training and service providers, developing incentive mechanisms (e.g. results-based contracting), and identifying employment-intensive food and non-food value chains (e.g. horticulture, floriculture in Kenya).

Engaging youth in early stages of project design is also crucial to increasing ownership and sustainability. Challenges of participation include the level of youth representativeness in meetings and how comfortable and prepared young people are to express themselves. Building leadership skills of rural young women and men and

supporting youth organisations or the creation of youth wings within existing producer organisations is of central importance and needs to be supported.


Some of the features that are important in youth employment programmes include: connecting youth with mentors and role models (also important to change the perception of agriculture); practical, interactive and peer-to-peer trainings; and access to proximity services and low-cost technologies (e.g. Hello tractor in Nigeria; Farm Drive in Kenya).

Facilitating inter-ministerial dialogues can increase the chances of successful interventions, e.g. by creating bridges between employment projects and investments in infrastructure in rural and secondary towns, agriculture and trade, employment and social protection, youth and land reforms, etc.

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MasterCard Foundation, an example of a partner's engagement with rural youth

I. Rural youth in the organization's policies or strategies

The mission of the MasterCard Foundation is to advance education and financial inclusion in developing countries. The Foundation focuses on helping economically disadvantaged young people in Africa find opportunities to move themselves, their families and their communities out of poverty. Its new strategy 2018–2030, *Young Africa Works*¹, outlines how, over the next decade, the Foundation will focus on finding solutions to the youth employment challenge and reducing poverty in Africa. The strategy sets an ambitious goal of “enabling 30 million young people in Africa to secure employment they see as dignified and fulfilling”.

II. Entry points and approaches to empower youth in programmes/projects

Education and financial inclusion are the main entry points of the Foundation's work. The approach of building the capacity of young men and women to transition to jobs or create businesses combines market-relevant skills training, mentorship and appropriate financial services. The Foundation also works in expanding access to finance for entrepreneurs and small businesses, which in turn facilitates job creation and employment.

The Foundation has supported skills training for economically disadvantaged young people in Africa so that they can find employment. The skills training focuses on developing foundational skills such as literacy and numeracy skills, as well as soft skills such as critical thinking, communications and teamwork. Foundation programmes also provide financial services, such as savings and financial literacy education to build young people's financial capability.

Work in skills training is complemented by efforts to strengthen the education systems. With chronic unemployment and underemployment on the continent, the Foundation believes it is important to focus on appropriate education that addresses foundational skills, such as literacy and numeracy, as well as market-relevant skills that young people need to transition to employment, such as digital literacy and financial management.

The 'MasterCard Foundation Scholars Programme' provides quality secondary and university education to economically disadvantaged but academically talented young people living in Sub-Saharan Africa. Scholars selected for the programme have shown a commitment to giving back to their communities. In addition to education, these students receive skills training, leadership development, mentoring and transition support. The Scholars Programme is fostering a cohort of next-generation leaders who will contribute to social transformation and economic growth on the continent.

Listening to youth and learning from them is central for the Foundation. In 2012, it launched the **Youth Think Tank** initiative, a youth-led research initiative implemented by Restless Development Uganda. The ambition is to elevate the voices of young people and equip them with the skills needed to conduct evidence-based research and to meaningfully engage in and inform development programmes and strategies that matter most to them. The *2017–2018 Youth Think Tank report*³ 'Building Inclusive Agricultural Technologies for Young People' highlights barriers to rural young people's access to and uptake of agricultural technology, including access to finance and a lack

of literacy and numeracy skills. The report also indicates that young people are more likely to adopt new technology if they learn about it from a family member or from their peers. Finally, it captures the experience of young people in the agri-food system—both those who innovate and those for whom they design solutions.

Collaboration with diverse partners at the national level can help to scale interventions. The [Youth Forward Initiative](#)⁴ brings together multiple organisations (Overseas Development Institute, Solidaridad, GOAL, NCBA CLUSA and Global Communities) to train and help 200,000 young people transition into sustainable jobs in the construction and agricultural sectors (e.g. cocoa sector in Ghana). It also has a robust learning and research agenda to understand the needs of young people and how these can be addressed.

II. Lessons learned and moving forward

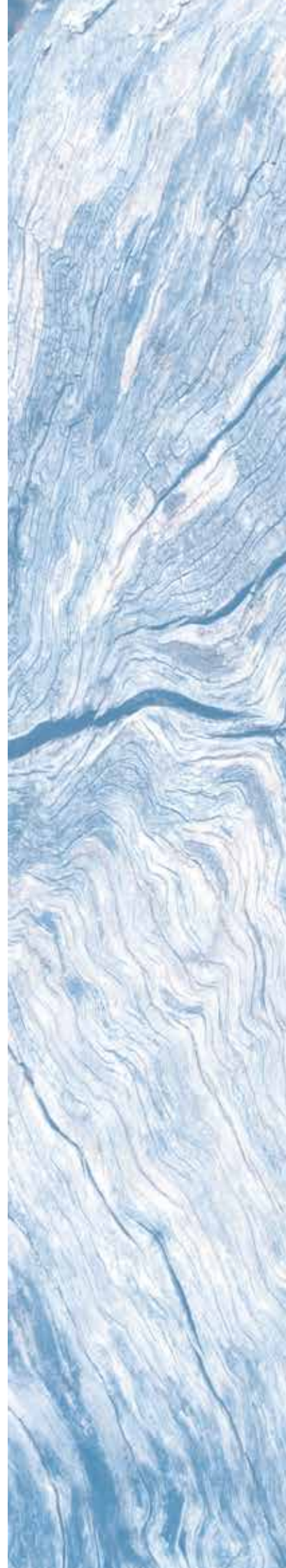
Solutions to youth employment do not necessarily lie with more training but with a better understanding of how rural economies are transforming and what is preventing jobs from being created. The MasterCard Foundation conducted [youth livelihoods diaries research](#)⁵ to better understand youth livelihoods in Ghana and Uganda. The research concluded that young people have diverse livelihoods, including agriculture, but with meager incomes. The mixed livelihoods strategy was found to be the most relevant for mitigating risks within vulnerable geographic areas.

The challenge of youth employment can only be adequately addressed through meaningful engagement of a range of stakeholders, including the private sector, government and civil society and, in particular, youth themselves. Understanding and addressing the challenges to economic growth and job creation, particularly access to finance, is critical in finding solutions.

Listening to young people is crucial for designing appropriate interventions. In addition, providing them with spaces like youth think tanks and incubators can help foster the entrepreneurial spirit and build self-confidence.

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