



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



HEAR IT FROM THE COUNTRIES

RURAL YOUTH ACTION PLAN GOOD PRACTICES

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RURAL YOUTH ACTION PLAN

GOOD PRACTICES

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| AMAL | Increasing Agrarian Youth Employment in Azerbaijan |
| ASEAN | Association of Southeast Asian Nations |
| AUC | African Union Commission |
| AYA | African Youth Agripreneurs |
| COAG | Committee on Agriculture |
| EU | European Union |
| FAO | Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations |
| G5 SAHEL | Group of Five for the Sahel |
| GBV | gender-based violence |
| GDP | gross domestic product |
| GIZ | German Society for International Cooperation |
| GJ4RYE | Green Jobs for Rural Youth Employment |
| ICA | Integrated Country Approach |
| ICT | information and communications technology |
| IDP | internally displaced person |
| ILO | International Labour Organization |
| INRAT | National Institute of Agricultural Research of Tunisia |
| MSMES | micro small and medium enterprises |
| ODI | [Formerly known as] Overseas Development Institute now “ODI” |
| OYA | Opportunities for Youth in Africa |
| PLEFS | Pastoralist Livelihoods and Education Field Schools |
| RYAP | Rural Youth Action Plan |

| | |
|--------------|--|
| SDG | Sustainable Development Goal |
| SME | small and medium enterprises |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNFPA | United Nations Population Fund |
| UNHCR | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees |
| UNIDO | United Nations Industrial Development Organization |
| WB | World Bank |
| WFF | World Food Forum |
| YCRA | Youth for Green and Climate-Resilient Agriculture |
| YIYA | Youth Inspiring Youth in Agriculture Initiative |





Background



Today, there are 1.2 billion young people aged 15 to 24 years, accounting for 16 percent of the global population with nearly 1 billion of them living in developing countries. Their numbers are growing far more rapidly in lower income countries than in higher income countries, particularly in rural areas. In fact, rural youth account for around half of all youth in developing countries (IFAD, 2019).

A successful transition of young people from dependence into independence will result in prosperous individuals able to contribute to the economy and society while generating not only long-term payoffs for them and their families but also for societies at large. On the other hand, an unsuccessful transition may result in lifelong poverty and social maladaptation, generating long-term negative outcomes (IFAD, 2019).

Youth are also key for rural development and inclusive transformation, while providing ideas, inspiration and energy to imagine, create and grasp opportunities for stronger, more connected, resilient and prosperous rural areas.

A central principle of the 2030 Agenda is the assurance that “no one will be left behind” and the universal nature of the 2030 Agenda entails that youth should be considered across all goals and targets.

Thus, young women and men’s importance is of universal concern.

Following the above, the FAO Conference in 2017 endorsed the call to develop a rural youth action plan to address the importance of making rural areas more attractive for young women and men, and under the aegis of the Committee on

Agriculture (COAG) the [Rural Youth Action Plan \(RYAP\)](#) was developed in consultation with Member Nations as well as with the Rome-based agencies, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP) and several other United Nations (UN) entities as members of the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD) along with several youth networks and organizations. The Plan was then presented at COAG’s Twenty-seventh Session in 2020.

The RYAP is a five-year Action Plan (2021–2025), aligned to five thematic areas (or pillars) with the goal of contributing to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by equally empowering rural young women and men. The Plan also serves as the framework for the implementation, monitoring and reporting of FAO’s youth-specific and youth sensitive activities.

To further strengthen youth inclusion, FAO, in its Strategic Framework 2022–2031, also identified “youth” as an important group whose needs must be addressed across all of FAO’s programmatic work areas (along with the other two cross-cutting themes of gender and inclusion) so to promote a more systematic mainstreaming and operationalization of these issues across all of FAO’s work.

This compendium of good practices brings together snapshots of selected FAO’s projects, activities and products in support of the RYAP’s first biennium of implementation (2021–2022). While the various good practices listed are mostly “framed” as contributing to one specific pillar, most of the projects or activities, or different activities within one project along the compendium, are potentially contributing to multiple pillars and outcomes of the RYAP.



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PILLAR 1

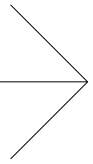
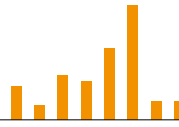
Support youth participation in rural development, within the context of integrated landscape and territorial approaches

Sustainable rural development needs to take into account different land uses, livelihood needs and socioeconomic factors, all of which shape social and ecological outcomes at various scales.

Integrated landscape and territorial approaches strive to meet the needs, interests and values of all women and men of all generations and ethnic groups who live in a given 'territory' while also addressing biophysical and ecological objectives and requirements. It recognizes spatial, sociopolitical and environmental diversity and supports equitable decision-making and governance systems.

Such approaches address the economic, social and environmental interlinkages and through participatory approaches identify optimal use of assets and resources in a given space to ensure sustainable transitions that create synergies and reduce tradeoffs.

These approaches are therefore suited for addressing multiple interlinked challenges such as the climate emergency, degraded natural resources and ecosystems and the economic decline in rural areas. Considering that such challenges are being further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in rural areas, these approaches need to ensure sustainable and resilient transitions that respect the specificities of different territories, making sure to leave no one behind.



This will require economic inclusion and targeted social protection measures, to address the immediate emergency but also ensure to “build back better” approach. Youth have demonstrated their increasingly important role in meeting these global challenges.

Activities in contribution to Pillar 1 aim at increasing youth awareness of integrated landscape and territorial approaches, support increased youth participation, instill ownerships in landscapes and create the means for youth to be positive active agents of change.

SELECTION OF ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF PILLAR 1



• BURKINA FASO • CHAD • EGYPT • GUATEMALA • KENYA •

• MALI • MAURITANIA • NIGER • RWANDA • SIERRA LEONE •

Source: United Nations Geospatial. 2020. Map of the World. www.un.org/geospatial/file/3420/download?token=TUP4yDmF

Notes: Final boundary between the Sudan and South Sudan has not yet been determined. Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties.

OUTCOME 1.1

Integrated landscape and territorial approaches created that incorporate the needs and aspirations of young women and men.

OUTCOME 1.2

Strengthened self-organization of youth within rural communities and interconnected urban areas.

Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger – Building resilience in the Sahel region through job creation for youth – Bridging the humanitarian-development-peace nexus in the context of fragility

The Sahel region is nowadays facing many challenges, including insecurity, rising extremism, lack of economic prospects and employment opportunities, while also experiencing poor access to education, vocational training and basic services. Within this context, climate change adds further challenges in the whole region.

In the region, the number of young people is unprecedented, with over 60 percent of the population below 25 years of age. Two thirds of them live in rural areas and are poorer and more often lack access to employment, skills, financial services and technology than adults, by 2050, it is projected that the number of young people aged 15–34 will increase by 46 million (WB, 2018).

The project *Building resilience in the Sahel region through job creation for youth* is building resilience and social cohesion among youth while improving their livelihoods stability via innovative approaches. Operations are increasing young people's access to sustainable employment opportunities via specific schemes (both rapid-temporary and medium to long-term ones).

Through regional research, assessments, and adaptations within its employment schemes at country level, the approach of the project, also looks at triggers of youth radicalization and youth migration under a socio economic angle with the aim of preventing potential negative coping mechanisms.

Given the region's extreme vulnerability to climate change, emphasis is also given to green jobs and green practices in agriculture. A strong social cohesion component is an integrated part of the project, carried out via regional learning routes and national and regional dialogues.

Further reading:

Building resilience in the Sahel region through job creation for youth

www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc0606en



Guatemala, Kenya and Rwanda – Integrated Country Approach (ICA) for boosting decent jobs for youth in agrifood systems programme

The *Integrated Country Approach (ICA) for boosting decent jobs for youth in agrifood systems programme (ICA)* supports youth in accessing more and better employment opportunities in rural areas and agrifood systems. ICA leverages a set of FAO's core functions, namely, policy and strategy advice, technical support and capacity development, knowledge generation, partnerships, as well as advocacy and communication. In-depth scoping exercises are conducted in the inception phase of the programme to better tailor the interventions to country demands and capacity development needs.

At global and regional level, ICA contributes to FAO's wider efforts to integrate employment issues in the agricultural and rural development discourse, including by supporting decent rural employment mainstreaming within the FAO Strategic Framework.

The entire approach is geared towards sustainable policy change and places emphasis on strengthening the capacities of national institutions responsible for agriculture and labour to promote decent rural employment, including through private-public partnerships and multi-stakeholder mechanisms. Gender equality, decent work and environmental sustainability are mainstreamed as cross-cutting issues.

At country level, the approach aims in particular at enhancing the employment content of national strategies, policies and programmes for agricultural and rural development in order to optimize the contribution of the sector to improve the quantity as well as the quality of rural jobs. At the global and regional level, the approach contributes to develop and share knowledge, lessons learnt and good practices, as well as to influence regional and global initiatives on agricultural development.

Further reading:

FAO's Integrated Country Approach (ICA) for boosting decent jobs for youth in the agri-food system

www.fao.org/rural-employment/work-areas/youth-employment/ica-programme



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Mali - Empowering youth in cotton growing communities through Dimitra Clubs

Cotton production is heavily demanding in terms of labour, natural resources and chemicals. Children and youth are often involved in a wide range of tasks, many of which are hazardous and can affect their health and/or deprive them of education and future prospects. Mali is the second biggest cotton producer in Africa. Forty percent of its rural population depends on cotton and many families involved in cotton production experience extreme poverty and have to rely on their children as a workforce to survive. This perpetuates a cycle of poverty for their families and their communities, and forms an obstacle to sustainable agriculture and food security.

The Clear Cotton Project *Eliminating child labour and forced labour in the cotton, textile and garment value chains: an integrated approach* is jointly funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and FAO. Specifically, in the overall project, FAO is in charge of one component of the activities in Burkina Faso, Mali and Pakistan, focusing on enabling farmers to end their economic dependency on child labour, strengthening their livelihoods through income generating activities, educating agricultural stakeholders, and raising awareness at the community level.

In Mali specifically, FAO has used the Dimitra Listeners' Clubs approach (voluntary, informal groups of women, men, youth and children) to raise awareness on hazardous work for children, including exposure to pesticides, and to build the capacity of communities in cotton growing areas to determine alternatives to child labour. The clubs have demonstrated the important role of community engagement in triggering changes in mindsets and behaviours, and in taking collective action, especially among young people under 18 with some of the youth clubs setting up self-managed saving and credit unions to fund income-generating activities.

Further reading:

Clear cotton project

www.fao.org/3/ca6293en/ca6293en.pdf

Dimitra community listeners' clubs

www.fao.org/3/i4706e/i4706e.pdf



Sierra Leone – Empowering youth at risk as resources for sustaining peace and community resilience

In 2019, Sierra Leone adopted its five-year National Development Plan (2019–2023) with a main focus on human capital development, and in particular, creating employment opportunities for youth. As assessed in the Plan, the lack of socioeconomic opportunities in the country results in the migration of youth from rural to urban areas and from urban areas to other countries. While the youth represent a significant productive force for the country, limited access to technical education and/or vocational training continues to prevent them from acquiring marketable skills. Further, the increased presence of youth organized in so-called “cliques and gangs” has been identified as a major increasing trend in the country. As the demobilization and reintegration of members of violent gangs is based on a process of empowerment, access to capacity development, economic inclusion and political participation, should be part of the holistic approach to adopt.

In order to prevent and address the issue of negative coping mechanisms while increasing employment opportunities for young people, FAO and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA), supported by a Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), are jointly implementing the project *Empowering youth at risk as resources for sustaining peace and community resilience* in Tonkolili and Kenema districts.

Project activities support youth at risk to reintegrate them in their communities and families, while providing further skills and employment opportunities in agriculture. At the same time, activities advocate for institutional reforms that address the core questions of recruitment of youth into cliques and gangs. Activities also place a strong attention to young women to improve their self-esteem, as well as educate men and boys on the lifelong impact of gender-based violence (GBV) on girls and women and how boys and men can champion the prevention of GBV.

Further reading:

Empowering youth at risk as resources for sustaining peace and community resilience in Tonkolili and Kenema districts in Sierra Leone

<https://mptf.undp.org/project/00124562>



Egypt – Promotion of youth and women economic empowerment via sericulture

In the past two decades, employment growth in Egypt has failed to keep up with the growth of the working age population. Ninety percent of people unemployed are under the age of 30, and unemployment has reached an unprecedented new high of 31.3 percent of the active youth population. Unemployment is only one of the issues faced by youth, many have to accept low productivity and low paid and insecure jobs. The lack of decent work is preventing young Egyptians from gaining the skills, experience and income necessary for the further economic, social and political development of their country (ILO, 2022).

Niche markets in agriculture can provide new jobs and opportunities for youth to enter in the sector. One example is silkworm rearing. Silkworm rearing and processing of raw silk was established in Egypt on a small scale for local use and it became a steady seasonal occupation for the landless and low-income rural population. Yet, Egypt currently uses 350 tons of natural silk annually with only approximately one ton being locally produced, while the rest is imported (Egyptian Sericulture Research Institute, 2019). The cultivation of silkworms has been assessed as of great economic potential while also contributing to growth in other connected sectors, such as mulberry tea production, cosmetics using silk proteins and surgical sutures. The global demand of natural silk is continuously increasing and the request for silk producers to meet the global request is very high.

Project activities in Egypt, strengthen modern sericulture technology to increase the production and also the quality of produced silk. Accordingly, training youth and women in the new technology while enabling them to place their products in the market, has allowed them not only to increase their economic opportunities and overall wellbeing, but also to increase local production. This also allowed foreign currency savings while encouraging the spread of the sericulture activities in reclaimed lands while inspiring unemployed youth and women of the potential opportunities in sericulture.



Related products – Pillar 1



FAO. 2022. *Horticulture value chain analysis - Opportunities for youth employment in Rwanda*. Rome. <https://www.fao.org/3/cb8266en/cb8266en.pdf>

This assessment, developed by FAO in collaboration with SNV Netherlands Development Organisation, aims to create a deeper understanding of where the opportunities for youth employment are in horticultural value chains in Rwanda and how these opportunities can be harnessed.



FAO and ODI. 2022. *The intersection between socioeconomic conditions and youth radicalisation - Implications for programming in the G5 Sahel countries*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb8658en>

The study provides an evidence-based analysis of the drivers of youth radicalisation in the Sahel. It aims not only to uncover how socioeconomic conditions interact with political dynamics to produce environments conducive to youth radicalisation, but also to provide recommendations on how regional employment programmes can be tailored so that they contribute towards reducing radicalisation.



FAO. 2022. *Youth Inspiring Youth in Agriculture (YIYA) Initiative*. Uganda. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc0677en>

The booklet profiles the top national youth champions of the YIYA initiative while sharing their stories of commitment, perseverance and resilience to inspire more young people into agriculture and agribusiness.



FAO. 2021. *Effectiveness and duplicability of the youth inspiring youth in agriculture initiative in Uganda*. Uganda. <https://www.fao.org/3/cb5244en/cb5244en.pdf>

The document draws lessons from the ‘Youth Inspiring Youth in Agriculture (YIYA)’ initiative while proposing recommendations for the design and implementation of subsequent phases in Uganda and other countries.



FAO. 2021. *Solutions to youth agripreneurship challenges - Lessons learned from youth agripreneur champions in Uganda*. Uganda. <https://www.fao.org/3/cb4704en/cb4704en.pdf>

The case study presents six different youth agribusiness models, and discusses how each model works, why it is recommended for youth, and model specific issues to be considered.



FAO. 2021. *Strengthening the technical capacities of young professionals to support the coordination and implementation of projects*. Rome. <https://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/CB3583EN>

This document outlines the experiences in developing the capacities of young professionals at the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariats to assist member states to coordinate the implementation of regional and national food and nutrition security policies.



PILLAR 2

Foster youth employment in an inclusive green economy within the three pillars of sustainability: social, environmental and economic

Many of the world's ecosystems and natural resources are overexploited and degraded while they need to continue providing food, clean water, energy and other essential economic, social and environmental goods and services to a growing population. This is further aggravated by challenges such as climate change and other shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

Major transitions are required for sustainable production systems and consumption patterns in order for countries to achieve their SDGs. This requires major efforts, especially in rural areas, to build resilience, reduce investment risks, develop relevant bioeconomy infrastructures and create market opportunities, for example through the provision of environmental services, carbon trading as well

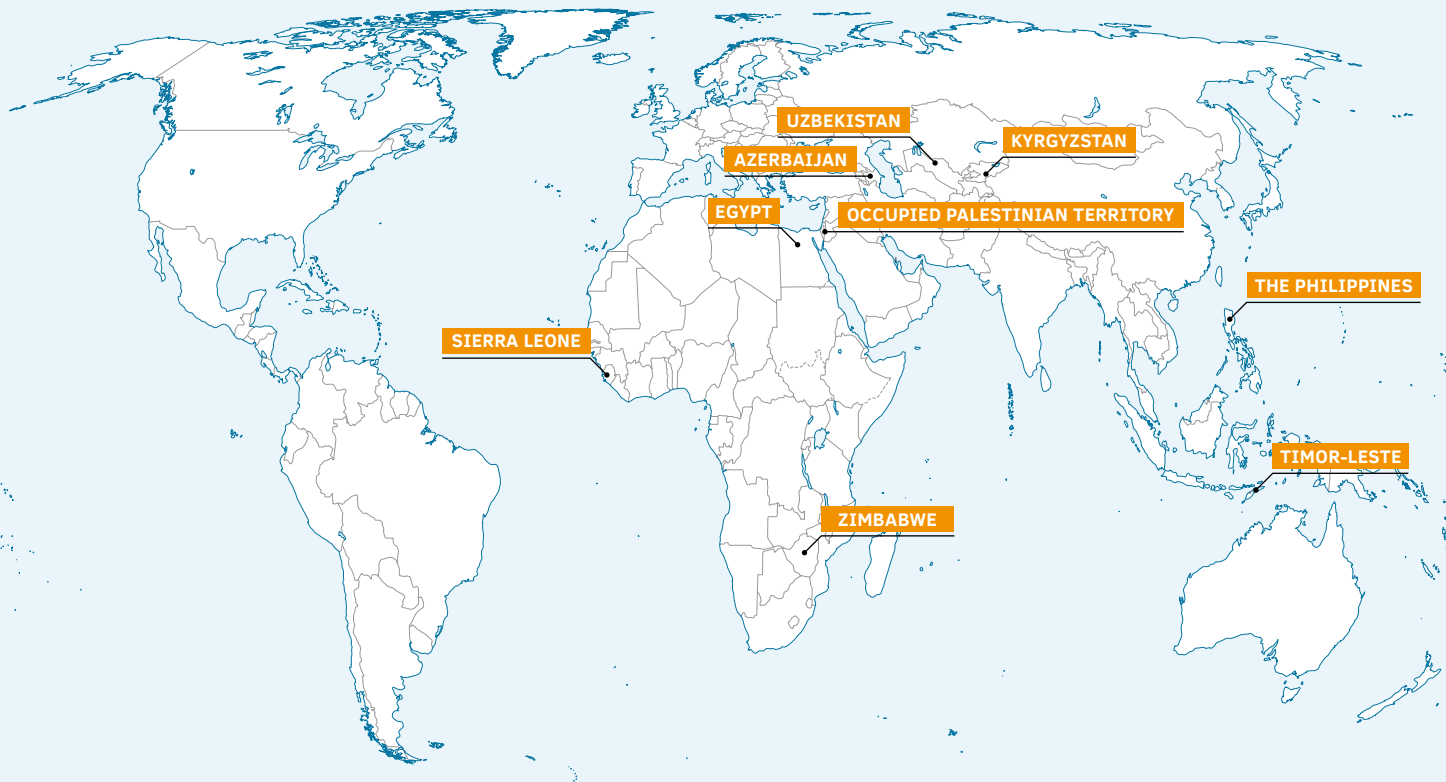
as creating products with a price premium, such as, for example, through fair trade, geographic indication and organic products.

Sustainable innovations in farm and non-farm rural employment and in agricultural value chains have the potential of creating millions of jobs. However, it is essential that such interventions are youth-sensitive and that jobs and market opportunities are decent, equitable, non-discriminatory, viable and attractive to young women and men. This will require partnerships among business, academia, government and local entities, as well as youth organizations, in order to undertake the needed research, skills training, and create bioeconomy clusters within rural communities and in rural-urban interfaces.

As part of Pillar 2, policy guidance and technical support is provided to governments to identify optimal entry points for transforming various agricultural sectors, generating new rural value chains and creating youth sensitive sustainable jobs.

Special attention is also given to the analysis and development of value chains that address gender inequalities, increase the engagement of young women and most marginalized youth and ensure equal benefit distribution.

SELECTION OF ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF PILLAR 2



- AZERBAIJAN • KYRGYZSTAN • EGYPT • OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY •
- SIERRA LEONE • THE PHILIPPINES • TIMOR-LESTE • UZBEKISTAN • ZIMBABWE •

Source: United Nations Geospatial. 2020. Map of the World. www.un.org/geospatial/file/3420/download?token=TUP4yDmF

OUTCOME 2.1

Promote government policies which ensure youth and gender-sensitive transitions to the green economy.

OUTCOME 2.2

Initiatives supported that allow young women and men to equally access sustainable jobs and participate in the bioeconomy.

Sierra Leone, Timor-Leste and Zimbabwe – Green Jobs for Rural Youth Employment (GJ4RYE)

The project *Green Jobs for Rural Youth Employment (GJ4RYE)* is providing capacity development opportunities across green agriculture, green energy and green waste management in Sierra Leone, Timor-Leste and Zimbabwe.

All three countries highly depend on agriculture, both in terms of gross domestic product (GDP) as in terms of youth employment. The three countries are expected to be severely affected by climate change. As most rural households are dependent on agriculture, they are particularly vulnerable to shifting rainfall patterns, and water resources availability. Poor rural communities are most at risk. However, sustainable agricultural production methods have great mitigation and adaptation potential, helping farmers to adapt, to maintain production and to improve practices without resorting to harmful techniques.

Through the GJ4RYE project, youth are engaged across all the steps of the agrifood value chains, greening the practices and applying low-cost, low-input, innovative methods.

GJ4RYE provides soft skills trainings for rural and peri-urban youth, focusing on transferrable green and business skills, like for example, communication and teamwork, gender leadership, climate change and sustainable food value chains, green enterprises and employability skills. The objective is to provide youth with the knowledge and skills to identify local issues and develop green jobs solutions to address them. Further, to assist them in operationalize their proposed green solutions, FAO provides further specific sectoral capacity development, followed by employment and grant opportunities that support youth for up to two years.

Further info:

Green Jobs for Rural Youth Employment (GJ4RYE)

www.fao.org/3/cb2356en/cb2356en.pdf



Occupied Palestinian Territory – Green jobs and sustainable income opportunities for Palestinian youth in the agrifood sector

Youth in the Occupied Palestinian Territory comprise 30 percent of the population, of which 38.1 percent are aged 15–19 and 61.9 percent are aged 20–29 (UNFPA, 2022). Palestinian young people face many challenges affecting their economic, social and overall wellbeing. The unemployment rate of youth between the ages of 15 and 29 is about 40 percent, and it is even higher among university graduates, around 54 percent (GIZ, 2022).

Moreover, absence of conducive political, social and economic environment for youth to become socially and economically engaged increases the potential for risk behaviours.

The project *Green jobs and sustainable income opportunities for Palestinian youth in the agrifood sector* promotes social and economic stability within the Palestinian community through addressing barriers to youth employment by tapping into the underutilized potentials of the agrifood sector and enabling young people to capture various market-driven opportunities from the transition to the green economy.

Activities enable young women and men in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in developing and strengthening their knowledge and professional skills through innovative participatory approaches while engaging local universities, vocational training centres as well as the private sector and civil society actors active in the agrifood sector.

The project has started its second phase and it is focusing on strengthening youth-sensitive policy frameworks and linkages across the agrifood sector, engaging further actors besides universities and vocational training centres, to develop their own agrifood-related programmes and hence allowing for greater diversity and flexibility in the scope and reach of the intervention.

Further reading:

Green jobs and sustainable income opportunities for Palestinian youth in the agrifood sector

www.fao.org/neareast/news/view/en/c/1466312/



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The Philippines – Resilient livelihoods development for women and internally displaced youth

In The Philippines, the armed confrontation between government forces and pro-ISIS militants in Marawi has forcibly displaced 98 percent of the total population of the city, as well as residents from nearby municipalities, who were compelled to leave due to severe food shortage and/or constriction of local economies (UNHCR, 2022).

The province of Maguindanao is one of those hit hard by the conflict resulting in local residents fleeing their homes 2 to 3 times per year and leaving behind their farms and assets. Further, the limited mobility of residents affected the flow of goods to and from the community impacting the local economy and the ability of affected families to access food. This has a cascading effect on the market, resulting in a significant decrease in the farm gate prices of the products with a consequent diminishing income of the affected families. Thus, internal displacement has negatively impacted the livelihoods and food security and nutrition status of internally displaced persons (IDPs) as well as to the potential access to education of their children.

FAO, jointly with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), via the project *Resilient livelihoods development for women and internally displaced youth*, is supporting the meaningful participation of women and youth IDPs in sustainable and resilient agricultural livelihoods' initiatives including through increased access to health, protection, wellness and other complementary support. This has led so far to an improved equitable access to agricultural activities for many young and women IDPs with a consequent increase of their food security, nutritional status and overall economic opportunities.

Further reading:

Resilient livelihoods development for women and internally displaced youth in Maguindanao

www.fao.org/philippines/news/detail/en/c/1506067/



Azerbaijan – Increasing agrarian youth employment project (AMAL)

In Azerbaijan, supporting young people is an important part of the overall state policy. Specifically, the national youth policy defines the various priorities and measures to be taken to create favorable conditions for young people to realize their knowledge and skills and strengthen their overall potential.

The economic reforms carried out in Azerbaijan in recent years have had a positive impact on the development of the entire non-oil sector, including in the agricultural one. Further, ensuring employment of young people remains a priority task of the state policy, and an increasing set of activities are being operationalized towards creating decent jobs including in rural areas and in the agricultural sector.

The *Increasing agrarian youth employment project (AMAL)* of the Ministry of Agriculture, and supported also by FAO, aims to enhance self-employability and entrepreneurship opportunities of rural young women and men, including from vulnerable groups, through the development of technical skills, access to services and financing while embedding green agriculture and decent rural employment in national development strategies.

AMAL develops and strengthens young people's capacities on improved farming, production and marketing. As part of the activities, the project also supports young farmers in accessing soft loans and subsidies and provides also internship opportunities to increase the interest of young people in agriculture.

Further reading:

Increasing agrarian youth employment project (AMAL)

<https://azerbaijan.un.org/en/156106-young-farmers-learned-about-family-farming-and-benefits-collective-activity>



© FAO/Abdul Mustafazade

Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan – Shared prosperity through cooperation in border regions

Over the last 30 years, relationships between Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan have been generally peaceful, yet, some border incidents occur. Although both countries avoided major border conflicts and there is deepening cooperation, some risks remain that can trigger conflict incidents. The two countries still dispute the ownership over certain territories with infrastructure and resources of social and economic importance such as water reservoirs, roads, and natural and built resources.

In terms of populations, both Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan are young. Approximately over a quarter of the population in both countries are between 15 and 28 years old (UNFPA, 2021) representing a great opportunity to benefit from. Considering a high unemployment rate among youth aged 16–29, which is estimated at 33.6 percent in Kyrgyzstan and 17 percent in Uzbekistan, with an agriculture-based economy in rural areas, it is pivotal to invest in youth, and women's potential entrepreneurship opportunities while increasing their active participation and social cohesion in border areas (National Statistics Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic, 2020).

The project *Shared prosperity through cooperation in border regions of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan*, supported by the Peacebuilding Fund and implemented by FAO and UNFPA, aims at enhancing cross-border environmental and socioeconomic cooperation between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. Project activities are building confidence and trust between local governments, communities and CSOs through the empowerment of women and youth, as important peacebuilding agents.

Climate-smart agricultural practices in sustaining common resources are applied, as well as the establishment of common platforms and networks to foster positive social, cultural and economic exchange between communities on both sides of the border. The project is also by nature intersectional, working at the nexus of peacebuilding, climate change, poverty alleviation and youth and women's empowerment.

Further reading:

Peacebuilding fund Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan

<https://mptf.undp.org/project/00129737>



Related products – Pillar 2



FAO. 2022. *Creating resilient livelihoods for youth in small-scale food production – A collection of projects to support young people in achieving sustainable and resilient livelihoods and food security.* Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc0225en>

This publication showcases initiatives that have been successfully implemented to help youth build resilience in the agrifood system, despite the severe consequences of climate change and formidable social and economic challenges.



FAO. 2022. *Africa Sustainable Livestock 2050: Presence and biosecurity practices of youth in poultry value chains.* Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc0427en>

The growing livestock sector has great potential to provide employment opportunities, but available evidence suggests a limited interest among young people in engaging in livestock activities. This brief explores the presence and characteristics of youth working in the poultry sector through data collected in two urban and peri-urban subregions in Kenya and Uganda.



FAO. 2022. *Making extension and advisory services work for youth.* Rome. <https://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/CB8222EN>

This factsheet outlines how extension and advisory services (EAS) are key, not only to enhance skills and access to information and support, but also to facilitate innovation, and act as brokers of employment opportunities in rural areas.



FAO. 2021. *Youth for climate transparency in the agriculture and land use sectors.* Rome. <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb5271en>

This leaflet provides young people with a general introduction to the Paris agreement, the role of agriculture in climate change, and concrete actions that youth can take to improve climate transparency.



FAO. 2021. *Indigenous youth as agents of change – Actions of Indigenous youth in local food systems during times of adversity.* Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb6895en>

The publication highlights six initiatives from Indigenous youth in regions around the world who are leading innovative solutions and collaborations in the face of adversity brought about by climate change and exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The publication has been produced under the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA) in collaboration with the Indigenous Peoples' Unit at FAO.



PILLAR 3

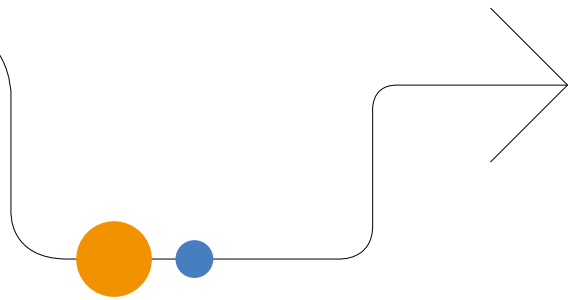
Strengthen rural youth capacities for the use of innovative approaches and technologies in food and agriculture

Formal education (such as schools, universities, vocational schools and training institutions), non-formal education (such as community groups, farm schools, and structured initiatives) and informal education (such as intergenerational knowledge transfer, peer-to-peer and community forums) are essential for capacity development, knowledge sharing and changing behaviours required to allow sustainable school to work transitions to occur and ensuring equal involvement of young women and men. Education not only improves employment opportunities but also addresses issues such as informal jobs, as the level of informality decreases when education increases.

Information and communications technology (ICT), increases the opportunities for the exchange of farm and value chain information, and supports the cross-fertilization among research, innovation and traditional and indigenous knowledge. ICT also creates opportunities to access inputs and services, identify potential markets and job opportunities, and create linkages between rural and urban areas. Knowledge and the ability to apply modern and labour-saving technologies can also contribute to reducing the hardship of work and trigger the interest of young women and men to participate in rural value chains.



As part of Pillar 3, collaborations are foreseen to strengthen the provision of education, training and overall capacity development in rural areas, including to extension services, while also increasing young people’s access to technology.



SELECTION OF ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF PILLAR 3



- COSTA RICA • DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO • GHANA • GUATEMALA •
- INDIA • INDONESIA • KENYA • MAURITANIA • NEPAL • SOMALIA • ZAMBIA •

Source: United Nations Geospatial. 2020. Map of the World. www.un.org/geospatial/file/3420/download?token=TUP4yDmF

OUTCOME 3.1

Youth and gender sensitive education and training programmes developed taking into consideration specific contexts and needs of youth constituencies such as disabled, Indigenous, minorities and marginalized groups

OUTCOME 3.2

Young men and women capacities developed through ICTs, agribusiness support programmes, Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools, education clubs and related mechanisms.

Guatemala - The ChispaRural digital platform for young rural talents

The *ChispaRural digital platform* in Guatemala, initiated by FAO ICA programme, supports the development of an innovative service to promote youth self-employment in migration-prone rural areas of Guatemala. Findings from a participatory assessment and consultations with over 150 youth and prospective users informed the development of a youth-centred digital solution called *ChispaRural.gt* which provides mobile friendly digital content and up-to-date information, otherwise dispersed, on opportunities for rural youth, as well as webinars, entrepreneurial tips and success stories of young agripreneurs.

In 2021, *ChispaRural* upgraded its technical infrastructure and services to provide more targeted learning and business support for youth running rural enterprises. The platform offers a promotional space for youth-led businesses to showcase their products and services, and free access to self-paced learning and group coaching (as part of virtual or blended programs) to develop entrepreneurial, digital and communication skills.

In collaboration with local partners and development agencies such as United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), *ChispaRural* successfully engages a growing community of rural youth, Indigenous women and returnees who are able to connect and share experiences while improving their personal and business presence online.

Further reading:

The *ChispaRural* digital platform for young rural talents

www.chisparural.gt



Mauritania - Digital innovation in agriculture for economic inclusion and rural employment of young people

Enabling young people to overcome the effects of the global health and economic crisis and to continue to generate innovative projects to transform the agrifood sector is key for rural transformation and sustainability. In Mauritania, FAO, via the Multidisciplinary Fund (MDF), strengthened and developed agrotechnological innovation and business ecosystems by supporting national incubators and accelerators serving youth-led micro small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in agricultural and food value chains. As part of the activities, youth-led MSMEs have been supported in strengthening their digital literacy and access to ICT as well as to high quality online courses on green jobs and e-agriculture.

In the framework of the project, FAO also signed a partnership with the Institut Supérieur d'Enseignement Technologique de Rosso (ISET), the only university in Mauritania with an agriculture department, to establish a “farmers observatory” on campus.

The observatory is developing a directory for value chain actors to help link upstream and downstream the various actors within while also piloting an activity using drones to collect data from local farms in order to provide more targeted extension support and advices.



@FAO/Giampiero Diana

Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Nepal and Zambia – Youth for Green and Climate-Resilient Agriculture (YCRA) Programme

FAO and the International Association of Students in Agricultural and Related Sciences (IAAS) in collaboration with Young Professionals for Agricultural Development (YPARD) launched the *Youth for Green and Climate-Resilient Agriculture (YCRA) Programme* to address the age-related challenges and barriers that youth face in their efforts to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change in agriculture and the food system.

Through a competitive application process, eight youth-led projects were selected. YCRA supported the selected youth through mentoring activities tailored to their individual needs, and through capacity building to enable their ideas to become reality. Additionally, the youth were sponsored to attend the International Conference for Youth in Agriculture (ICYA) and the representatives of the two best performing teams are sponsored to attend the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) to bring the voice of youth in green and climate-resilient agriculture on the international stage.

To allow a broader audience of youth to benefit from the capacity building activities under the YCRA Programme the technical capacity building webinar series ‘Sprouting change: capacity building for youth in green and climate-resilient agriculture’ was started. Through this series young agripreneurs and youth-led civil society groups were able to learn about the fundamentals of integrating decent employment, behavioral sciences, climate-smart agriculture, and other practical tools and concepts in their youth-led projects.

Further reading:

Youth for Green and Climate-Resilient Agriculture (YCRA) Programme

www.fao.org/climate-change/programmes-and-projects/detail/en/c/1504698/



Lebanon – Fostering safe work for youth and preventing child labour in agriculture through gamification and digitalization

In recent years, Lebanon has witnessed a rise in child labour in the agricultural sector, especially within the context of the Syrian refugee crisis. As of 2017, occupational safety and health (OSH) gaps were identified in Lebanon's agricultural sector as a major driver of hazardous work for children and rural youth.

The country's legal framework has evolved to provide adequate responses. Besides having ratified all international conventions related to child labour, in 2013 Lebanon approved a National Action Plan to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour, which addresses the prohibition of employment of children, including those of legal working age (14–17), in work that may harm their health, safety or morals.

Coherently, FAO has long worked with Lebanon's Ministry of Agriculture to support youth to access decent work in rural areas. As part of this effort, and in collaboration with Plan International, FAO has developed 'REEFI', a digital application to sensitize children and youth on occupational safety and health and child labour in agriculture.

The application contributes to Lebanon's Youth Protection Policy, adopted by the Ministry of Agriculture as a result of the synergy between FAO projects *Generational gaps and eliminating child labour in agriculture* and *Upgrading the Technical Agriculture Education System in Lebanon (2016–2021)*.

REEFI ('my rural place' in Arabic) is an FAO's innovative tool to learn through play for children, adolescents and their parents, allowing them to learn about their rights and body needs, but also about hazards and risks, and how to protect their health in different farm settings such as greenhouses, open fields, orchards, and others, in a playful and interactive manner. The ambition is to adapt REEFI to other country and regional contexts, seizing the Flexible Multi-Partner Mechanism (FMM) potential for upscaling impact on child labour elimination in agriculture and making a difference in children's and youth's lives. The game is accessible on both [Android](#) and [iOS](#) platforms.

Further info:

REEFI digital game

www.fao.org/lebanon/news/detail-events/ru/c/1480384/



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Somalia - Maritime security and youth empowerment in Somali fisheries

In Somalia, young people make up for over 75 percent of the population (UNFPA, 2022), one of the largest youth demographics in the world. Yet, as a result of over 25 years of conflict, two generations of youth have been denied education, employment and a chance at a peaceful life. The country has also one of the lowest school enrollment rates in the world, with only 4 out of 10 children in school. Two-third of the country's youth are unemployed and lack access to opportunities. Because of this social and economic marginalization, young people are increasingly turning to crime and radicalization and are at risk of being recruited by armed groups (UN, 2014).

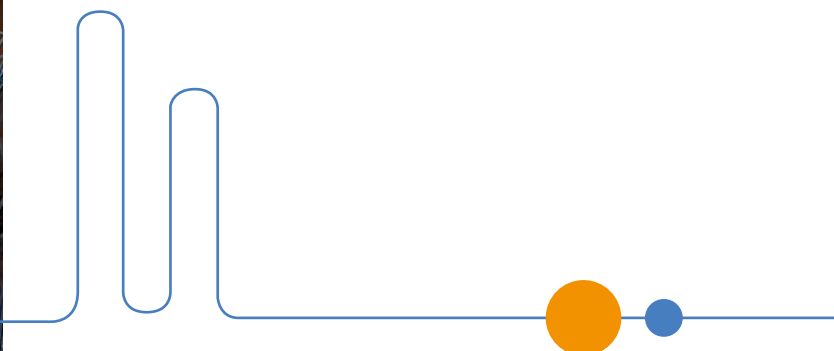
In Somalia, FAO is implementing the project *Maritime security and youth empowerment in Somali fisheries* to contribute to the development of a modern and cohesive society out of the downward cycle of poverty and crime. In particular, the project creates improved sustainable livelihood opportunities for youth and women in the coastal communities of Galmudug.

As part of the activities, a training centre in Hobyo is being fully equipped and is hosting the capacity development activities for the young entrepreneurs and local women's organizations. The project focuses on creating practical and sustainable opportunities for women and youth, identifying distinct and culturally appropriate roles for each at different points along the value chain.

Further reading:

Maritime security and youth empowerment in Somali fisheries

<https://mpf.gm.so/project/project-one/>



South Sudan - Enhancing access to quality education and decent work for children and youth in pastoralist communities

In South Sudan, where the livestock herding population is one of the largest in Africa, pastoralism provides livelihoods to many communities. Cattle herding represents an important cultural heritage among several tribes in the country, and children are highly engaged in cattle camps, often in situations considered as child labour.

Children aged 5–13 years old who are below the minimum age for admission to employment are working and are thus often deprived of education opportunities in pastoralist communities. Children and youth of legal working age, 14–17 years old, who are working may be exposed to harm, e.g. caused by cattle and wildlife, fires at the camps and exposure to animal-borne diseases. This is considered hazardous work.

Many tribes tended to recognize little value in formal education and schooling for their children, but this started to change, in times of income scarcity and food insecurity, tribes have started to recognize the value of education and entrepreneurial skills. Against this background, FAO and UNESCO, in partnership with the implementing partners and various national ministries, are promoting *Pastoralist Livelihoods and Education Field Schools (PLEFS)*, an innovative model that aims to address barriers to education for pastoralists, where capacity is developed from existing local and customary knowledge.

In 2021, in Rumbek, Lakes State, 63 PLEFS teachers/facilitators and 36 County supervisors and State technical working group members completed a two-week capacity building training on facilitation skills and methodologies of the integrated PLEFS approach. Trainings allowed to increase capacities on combined community-managed disaster risk reduction, income generation activities and basic education, including functional literacy and numeracy. Since the beginning of the rollout, over 4 000 out of schools children, youth and adults learners in cattle camps have benefitted from this PLEFS outreach approach. The initiative resulted in children's improved literacy and numeracy skills, facilitating their transition to formal education. Awareness on the value of education was enhanced, and young people, of legal working age, took over the herding to enable children of compulsory schooling age to attend school.



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Related products – Pillar 3



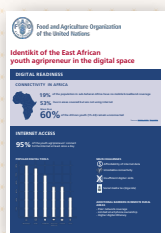
FAO. 2022. Youth-sensitive value chain analysis and development - Guidelines for practitioners. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb8489en>

This publication aims to assist field practitioners, youth organizations and other stakeholders to identify binding constraints and viable opportunities to youth engagement in value chains that can translate into greater youth inclusion.



FAO. 2022. Youth employment through agribusiness and value chain development. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc0486en>

This policy brief is intended to sensitize decision makers, development partners, youth organizations and other stakeholders about the opportunities offered by applying a value chain approach that focuses on youth.



FAO. 2022. Identikit of the East African youth agripreneur in the digital space. Nairobi. <https://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/CB9297EN>

This infographic provides a visual profile of youth's digital behaviour and skills in East Africa.



FAO. 2022. Empowering youth to engage in responsible investment in agriculture and food systems in Liberia and Sierra Leone. Rome. <https://www.fao.org/publications/card/fr/c/CC0482EN>

This booklet explains the work done by FAO to empower youth to engage in responsible investment in agriculture and food systems in Liberia and Sierra Leone.



FAO and INRAT. 2022. Des informations disponibles et accessibles pour un environnement favorable à l'investissement responsable des jeunes dans le secteur agricole et les systèmes agroalimentaires. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb9985fr>

This guidance document provides concrete recommendations to strengthen youth's capacities to invest in agriculture with medium and long-term actions.



FAO. 2022. Ready to go digital? Assessing the digital readiness of young agripreneurs in East Africa. Nairobi. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb8026en>

This summary note assessment captures expectations, behaviours and underlying needs of young women and men engaged in agribusiness in selected East African countries, as prospective users of the AYA regional online platform.



FAO and Chulalongkorn University. 2021. *Being “agricool”: Supporting the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) youth and tertiary student futures for sustainable agrifood system learning and livelihoods to meet the Sustainable Development Goals.* Bangkok. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb8044en>

This brief focuses on the need for higher education institutions, international agencies, regional organizations and governments in Southeast Asia to do more to assist youth and tertiary students by providing adequate programmes, curricula, research and extension services.



FAO. 2021. *Involving women and youth in responsible investment in agriculture and food systems in Ghana.* Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb6880en>

This document outlines how women and youth-led agribusiness, which may also be operating as family businesses, in agricultural value chains are key and catalysts for rural transformation given their potential for creating employment and stimulating value addition both on and off-farm.



FAO. 2021. *E-learning course: Empower youth to engage in responsible investment in agriculture and food systems.* Rome. <https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=779>

This e-learning course aims to provide guidance on youth-specific issues that should be taken into consideration when creating an enabling environment for responsible investment in agriculture and food systems. The course is intended for policy makers, international technical experts, youth leaders and young students.



FAO. 2021. *Education attainment and employment situation of out-of-school persons in the 14–17 years age cohort in Uganda.* Rome. <https://www.fao.org/3/cb3226en/cb3226en.pdf>

This brief summarizes the finding from a study conducted by the Economic Policy Research Center (EPRC) for FAO on the employment status of young persons aged 14–17 and their engagement in agriculture in Uganda.



FAO and ILO. 2021. *Tackling child labour through decent youth employment in agri-food systems.* Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb7441en>

This paper explores the complex links between child labour, access to education and training, and youth employment in the context of sustainable agrifood systems, poverty reduction and food security, with a particular focus on 15 to 17 years old youth in rural areas.



FAO and IFPRI. 2021. *Investing in youth vocational training - Professional training programme in the agropastoral and fisheries sectors in Cameroon.* Rome.

<https://doi.org/10.4060/cb7819en>

This study focuses on the training and vocational integration of young people in agriculture as part of the agropastoral training programme (AFOP) in Cameroon and it is based on more than 12 years of programme data drawn from its internal monitoring and evaluation system.



FAO. 2021. *Strengthening decent rural employment opportunities for youth across different processes in the forest value chain in Uganda.* Rome.

<https://doi.org/10.4060/cb3331en>

This report addresses the subject of decent rural employment for youth in the forestry sector. It is based on case studies carried out across different processes in the value chain within the sector in Uganda, ranging from seedbed development through to plantation management, saw logging and trading.







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PILLAR 4

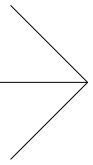
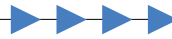
Promote rural services for youth and agripreneurs

The achievement of the SDGs requires a significant increase in investments in sustainable agriculture. In this context, attracting youth to agriculture and empowering them to carry out sustainable investments is crucial since it will have significant positive impacts on food security and nutrition, economic development, employment creation and the reduction of forced migration. Furthermore, specific incentives for rural young people may also strengthen their attachment to the rural environment and the motivation to live and start activities in such contexts.

It is essential to strengthen youth access to services, including (micro-) credit and (micro-) financial services, and those for land acquisition.

Other crucial services include advisory services on enterprise development, market information as well as equitable access to innovations such as e-commerce platforms and e-banking.

Sustainable interventions also require incorporating youth-specific investment incentives into national investment promotion strategies, as well as working with youth organizations to strengthen their capacities to provide services and engage in policy dialogues. In addition, the use of specific rural youth orientated incentive schemes can increase youth attachment, retention and recruitment to rural areas. Rural infrastructure, including internet connectivity and other services, such as social, health and education services will also



be essential in creating opportunities in both agricultural sectors and other sectors such as tourism. Transitioning towards a sustainable resilient future will also require youth policies, targeted social protection, and safety-net

measures that address recurrent or foreseeable shocks, such as climate change. Other needed accompanying measures would include opportunities to incentivize family care facilities, family planning and social assistance.

SELECTION OF ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF PILLAR 4



- BHUTAN • BURUNDI • CABO VERDE • DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO • ETHIOPIA •
- GHANA • HONDURAS • KENYA • RWANDA • SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES •
- SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC • SOUTH SUDAN • TUNISIA • UGANDA • ZAMBIA •

Source: United Nations Geospatial. 2020. Map of the World. www.un.org/geospatial/file/3420/download?token=TUP4yDmF

OUTCOME 4.1

Youth entrepreneurship and decent jobs promoted and investment strengthened

OUTCOME 4.2

Youth communities, organizations and networks supported in accessing rural services, including agricultural measures.

Cabo Verde, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Tunisia and Zambia – Opportunities for Youth in Africa (OYA) Programme

FAO and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) *Opportunities for Youth in Africa (OYA)* Joint Programme aims at accelerating efforts in the area of job creation for African youth, especially through agribusiness and entrepreneurship development.

OYA implements an integrated approach for the creation of quality on- and off-farm employment and self-employment opportunities for African youth in agriculture and agribusiness. It highlights the central role of agriculture for Africa's development, while emphasizing the need for continuous empowerment of African youth to be the engine of this growth.

The multilevel approach (continental, sub-regional, national) reflects the need for a concerted effort between public institutions and the private sector on capacity development, access to resources, improved coordination and linkages, and knowledge generation and dissemination. In addition, OYA provides an opportunity to strengthen the collaboration between FAO and UNIDO, and to position both agencies jointly on decent rural employment creation, agribusiness and value chain development, and support to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in agriculture. By coming together, FAO and UNIDO are leveraging on their strengths as knowledge organizations as well as technical agencies with extensive experience on decent employment creation and entrepreneurship development.

Further reading:

Opportunities for Youth in Africa (OYA) Programme

www.oyaprogramme.org



Tunisia – The AgriAccelerator Hub

Youth inactivity is a massive problem in Tunisia. In 2021, unemployment affected 42.8 percent of the youth, and 30.1 percent of Tunisian graduates. The lack of perspectives for young women and men is a particular challenge in the country's hinterland, which is characterized by lack of investments, poverty and widespread unemployment.

Agriculture can provide opportunities for unemployed young Tunisians. FAO, in collaboration with the Agricultural Investment Promotion Agency (APIA) and the National Institute of Agricultural Research of Tunisia (INRAT) is supporting Tunisian youth to improve their responsible investment projects in agriculture. The *AgriAccelerator Hub* supported selected youth in Tunisia to carry out responsible investment in two value chains based on recommendations of the national multi-stakeholder responsible investment platform. This included coaching and incubation services, as well as specific training sessions on responsible investment principles and practices, as well as on territorial development.

By encouraging youth responsible investment in high potential agricultural sectors, the project aims to support sustainable and inclusive economic growth and to create decent employment opportunities in the agricultural sector for youth.

Further reading:

The AgriAccelerator Hub

www.fao.org/in-action/responsible-agricultural-investments/news/detail/en/c/1460493/



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Honduras – Prevention and management of social conflict linked to Indigenous youth

Honduras has one of the highest growth rates in Latin America, yet, 48.3 percent of Hondurans live below the national poverty line and 22.9 percent live below the national extreme poverty line. Rural poverty rates increased in the five years up to 2018 amid a deceleration of the labour-intensive agriculture sector and rising consumer prices. In 2018, 60.1 percent of the rural population lived below the official rural poverty line (WB, 2020), and further to the pandemic, poverty has been steadily increasing.

With more than half of Hondurans younger than 25 years and a majority of the population living below the poverty line, the country faces great challenges in meeting the social, economic and health needs of its people. Further, in Honduras, conflicts persist between Indigenous Peoples and the general economic sector, due to factors of rights and use of land and natural resources.

The project *Prevention and management of social conflict linked to Indigenous youth*, supported by the Peacebuilding Fund and implemented jointly by FAO and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), is enabling spaces for consultation where Indigenous youth strengthen their knowledge on land rights while developing mechanisms for an effective governance of land as an important element to reduce, prevent and manage conflicts, as well as to generate a peaceful coexistence.

Further reading:

Peacebuilding fund Honduras

<https://mptf.undp.org/project/00129762>



Saint Vincent and the Grenadines – Promoting livelihoods recovery and resilience through youth and women-led resilient value chain development and entrepreneurship

In 2021, the volcano La Soufrière in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines erupted for the first time after 40 years. While the heavy ashfall initially impacted also the surrounding islands, various subsequent multiple eruptions occurred and several severe tropical storms and rain events, had a huge impact in the archipelago of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' population, its farmlands, forests and aquacultural production with a consequent severe disruption of livelihoods.

Alongside tourism, agriculture is one of the country's main industries, officially employing 26 percent of the population. Despite the importance of agriculture, there has been significant underinvestments in the sector in recent years; consequently, the country has faced high food import bills, including significant quantities of ultra-processed foods. In 2020 and early 2021, the country, like the rest of the Caribbean region, was already reeling from the contraction of the tourism economy caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The project *Promoting livelihoods recovery and resilience through youth and women-led resilient value chain development and entrepreneurship*, implemented by FAO with the Ministry of Agriculture, is focusing not only in the recovery of the agricultural sector after the eruption but also by building a cadre of new entrepreneurs in the agriculture sector with a stronger inclusion of youth and women in order to involve, facilitate and skill the young generations in the islands to develop more resilient local value chains.



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Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan and Uganda – Promoting youth employment in the agricultural sector in East Africa

Youth represent about 45 percent (48 million) of the total population of the East African Community (EAC) region. Many of them live in rural areas.

For rural youth, new business creation in the agriculture sector can present an important and viable opportunity to find decent and productive work in the agricultural sector. Against this background, FAO Subregional Office for Eastern Africa (SFE), in close collaboration with the EAC Secretariat, implemented the project *Promoting youth employment in the agricultural sector in East Africa* within the broader context of the African Union *Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods*. Activities are contributing to reducing rural poverty and to boosting economic growth by supporting the creation of better opportunities for youth communities in Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan and Uganda.

Activities also aimed at strengthening a knowledge and experience sharing platform among Eastern African countries. Each country collected best practices from youth agripreneurs and youth friendly service providers while connecting them to learn from each other while contributing to the AYA digital platform.

Further reading:

Promoting employment opportunities and agripreneurship among youth and women in Eastern Africa

www.kisumu.go.ke/promoting-employment-opportunities-and-agripreneurship-among-youth-and-women-in-east-africa/

AYA digital platform

www.ayaplatform.org/feed



Syrian Arab Republic – Nabta Programme

The past years have been extremely difficult for all Syrians but while the conflict is devastating on all generations, it hampers young people's plans at a very critical phase of their lives. The deterioration of the economic situation over the last years are further exacerbating the ongoing humanitarian situation in the country as well as the living conditions of Syrian refugees and their host communities in neighbouring countries.

The *Nabta programme* established by FAO Syria fosters entrepreneurship among small producers and youth, while building their capacity to develop and implement innovative business ideas inspired by their local and traditional knowledge while fostering support to help young Syrians overcome the economic challenges of prolonged conflict and multiple intersecting crises.

As part of the initiative young women and men participated in a series of business ideation and business development workshops implemented in various regions of the country and several ideas proposed by them which demonstrated environmental, social and financial sustainability received seed funding and mentoring to enable market entry and commercial success.

The business ideas developed are also helping to provide feasible solutions to critical challenges or bottlenecks in local agrifood value chains, addressing production issues, processing and marketing. A youth community of practice was also launched on International Youth Day 2021 to share knowledge, experiences and good practices while also providing a basis for young people to come together and advocate for more inclusive and sustainable agrifood transformation in Syrian Arab Republic.

Further reading:

Nabta Programme

www.fao.org/syria/news/detail-events/en/c/1505772/



©FAO/Roberto Faldutti

Bhutan – Fostering decent jobs and sustainable income opportunities for youth in the agribusiness industry

In Bhutan, unemployment has become a major concern in the country. According to the National Labour Force Survey 2020, youth unemployment has doubled in one year from 11.9 percent in 2019 to 22.6 percent in 2020. With close to half of the country's population under the age of 27, the scale of the challenge is growing (UNDP, 2022).

Furthermore, rural–urban migration has been a longstanding issue in the development and planning discourse of the country. While youth have been a major proportion of population migrating to urban areas looking for employment, there are also those choosing to return home, taking up commercial farming and becoming successful agricultural entrepreneurs.

It has been assessed that in the country, the agrifood system lacks labour force and imported labour for farming activities is not permitted. Due to this, the government has embarked on harnessing youth into agriculture.

The project *Fostering decent jobs and sustainable income opportunities for youth* is supporting the government of Bhutan in strengthening youth's technical skills along different value chains while focusing on agribusiness. Skilling, re-skilling and also awareness raising on agribusiness opportunities are the main focus of the activities. As activities are contributing to the government's objectives regarding the commercialization of farming, scaling up of activities is foreseen as part of the implementations of Bhutan's Renewable Natural Resources (RNR) Strategy 2030.



Related products – Pillar 4



FAO and AUC. 2022. *Investment guidelines for youth in agrifood systems in Africa*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb9001en>

The guidelines, developed jointly by FAO and the African Union Commission (AUC) through a multi-stakeholder and participatory process, highlight the importance of youth as change agents and key stakeholders contributing to sustainable agrifood systems and aim to accelerate investments in and by youth in agrifood systems.



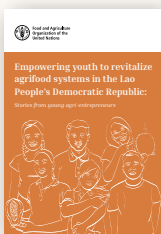
FAO. 2022. *Scaling up investments in agrifood systems for youth in Africa*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb9137en>

This brief highlights the importance of youth as change agents and key stakeholders contributing to sustainable agrifood systems. It provides an overview of the Investment guidelines for youth in agrifood systems in Africa developed jointly by FAO and the AUC through a multi-stakeholder and participatory process.



FAO. 2022. *Agrinvest Zimbabwe: Supporting jobs for youth through private investments in agricultural value chains*. Rome. <https://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/CC1535EN>

This brief outlines the AgrInvest activities in Zimbabwe to support job creation for youth in agricultural value chains. It further highlights how the project contributed significantly to strengthening policy and institutional frameworks, and to enhancing government capacity to promote partnerships and coordinate actions across actors and sectors.



FAO. 2022. *Empowering youth to revitalize agrifood systems in Lao People's Democratic Republic: Stories from young agri-entrepreneurs*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc0278en>

This case study outlines how to better support youth to invest in agriculture and sensitize them on the importance and opportunities this sector can offer. For the purpose of the case study, FAO interviewed young Lao people who have been able to invest in agriculture and become successful agri-entrepreneurs.



FAO and AsiaDHRRA. 2021. *Engaging ASEAN Youth on Responsible Agriculture Investments*. The Philippines. <https://asiadhrra.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/CFS-RAI-Monograph.pdf>

This brief, published with support of FAO, highlights the importance of engaging and empowering youth in agriculture, building awareness of Responsible Agriculture Investments (RAI) at the global, regional, and national levels, and, strengthening networks and creating platforms for advocacy action.



FAO and UNIDO. 2021. *Opportunities for Youth in Africa (OYA) - Accelerating job creation and entrepreneurship in agriculture and agribusiness*. <https://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/CB3802EN/>

This brochure frames the OYA programme to align it with the priorities of donors including migration, human security and sustainable transitions. It also gives greater visibility to the programme's theory of change, objectives and targets of implementation.



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PILLAR 5

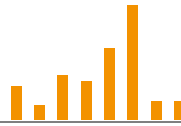
Building FAO institutional capacity to address rural youth areas of work

Pillar 5 of the RYAP focuses both on strengthening internal institutional capacities for staff to fully integrate youth issues in the workplans of the organization, while also strengthening partnerships with youth cohorts and networks to increase their participation in various UN processes and initiatives.

Internally, Regional and Country Offices may not necessarily have the capacity to adequately include youth in their programmes, or undertake adequate youth participatory processes. In addition, Country Offices often are not equipped to address youth issues in new United Nations (UN) country processes and ensure that the needs and views of the different rural youth constituencies are fully represented.



© FAO/David Mansell/Woollin



Furthermore, strengthening partnerships with relevant organizations can also help mitigate certain internal limitations, while empowering youth to be partners.

All this can provide considerable strength at global, regional, country and most importantly, grassroots levels.

Building on each organization's strengths will also allow to work at larger scales and strengthen advocacy efforts. This includes also the creation of joint initiatives and improved coordination in global and regional processes and country implementation.



©FAO/Giulio Napolitano

OUTCOME 5.1

FAO's capacity strengthened to strategically deal with rural youth issues.

OUTCOME 5.2

Partnerships established and youth participation in UN processes supported in view of establishing a specific youth engagement network/mechanism.

Selection of activities and initiatives in support of Pillar 5

Cross-cutting theme on youth team (CCT Youth team)

The Cross-cutting theme on youth team (CCT Youth team), was established in 2021 and comprises various members from FAO headquarters and Regional Offices. It is tasked with mainstreaming the concept, purpose and know-how on programming in a more youth-inclusive way.

In 2021, the CCT Youth team has supported the 20 FAO programme priority areas (PPAs) teams in adequately reflecting youth in their workplans which are meant to guide FAO on filling critical gaps and putting in place the conditions needed to drive the changes that will ultimately contribute to the achievement of selected SDG targets. Further, in 2022, the CCT Youth team together with the various FAO Regional Offices, organized a series of webinars for the decentralized offices to strengthen the capacities to adequately reflect and include youth in their workplans. The webinars introduced basics concepts and definitions, challenges and opportunities, and provided knowledge on the know-how of youth inclusion in projects and activities while also featuring local success stories implemented in the given regions. Throughout 2021 and 2022, the team has provided coordination for the implementation and reporting of FAO's Rural Youth Action Plan (RYAP), besides producing a number of materials to support youth inclusion in FAO's work programme.



Latin American festival of rural youth

Youth, along with women and Indigenous Peoples (IPs), constantly face adverse conditions in terms of equitable access to land, resources, education, health, culture and opportunities to participate in development processes. Therefore, advancing an agenda of economic inclusion of rural youth includes guaranteeing their access to quality services through the strengthening of institutions in the territories; discussion that must go hand in hand with its innovative potential and talents to provide services that allow incorporating sustainable production practices and producing changes towards a new governance of food systems.

Aiming to develop a regional framework for rural youth, the latest exchange of the Latin American festival of rural youth brought together some of the experiences and initiatives that have been developed by young people and public institutions in the region and facilitated access to services to young people, while empowering to become full providers of innovative and transformative services.

Further info:

Latin American Festival of Rural Youth

www.fao.org/in-action/capacitacion-politicas-publicas/webinars/festival-latinoamericano-de-las-juventudes-rurales



©FAO/Mauricio Miralles

Indigenous Peoples team – Support to Indigenous youth

Indigenous Peoples, and especially Indigenous youth, face external pressures that threaten their livelihoods, cultures, identities and rights. These include the intergenerational impacts of colonisation and assimilation policies, as well as the frequent lack of safeguarding of their rights and identity as Indigenous Peoples (ISHR, 2019). Indigenous youth are innovative and creative in how they overcome challenges combining their traditional knowledge with new technologies. They are the future knowledge holders and guardians of their cultures, territories, food systems, languages and diverse systems of knowledge. Since 2016, FAO's Indigenous Peoples Unit (PSUI), has supported Indigenous youth in leading initiatives to amplify their voices and leadership on the global stage through forums, publications, and training programmes.

In 2021, FAO with the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus and the Indigenous Youth Champions of the UN Food Systems Summit, launched the first, biannual Global Indigenous Youth Forum at FAO. The launch of this Forum is in direct response to the recommendation issued to FAO from the UNDESA/UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, for FAO to organize and host the UN Forum on Indigenous Youth. The first Forum in 2021 gathered 150 Indigenous youth from 7 sociocultural regions of the world for three days to discuss Indigenous youth priorities leading up to the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit, and resulted in the Indigenous Youth Global Declaration on Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems. During 2021, FAO continued the internship program for Indigenous youth initiated in 2018. FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit and the Internship Unit hired 25 Indigenous interns now working in Regional and Country Offices in Latin America, Asia, Africa, and headquarters.

Further info:

Indigenous Peoples

www.fao.org/indigenous-peoples



United Nations Decade of Family Farming (UNDF) - Support youth and ensure the generational sustainability of family farming

In the framework of the UN Decade of Family Farming (2019–2028), and particularly in support of the implementation of the transversal Pillar 2 of its Global Action Plan to Support youth and ensure the generational sustainability of family farming, FAO, has strengthened numerous partnerships with young farmers and with young members of different farmers' networks and organizations.

Within this framework, FAO implemented various capacity development trainings on the public policy cycle to support youth's active engagement in decision-making processes and to strengthen both their participation and leadership role in rural organizations that contribute also to pillar 1 of the RYAP. These activities involved policy makers and numerous FAO staff from global, regional and country levels reinforcing direct collaboration with young farmers to promote context specific, integrated, innovative and inclusive public policies enhancing the generational sustainability of agrifood systems.

Further reading:

UN Decade of Family Farming

www.fao.org/family-farming-decade/home



@FAO/Luis Tato

World Food Forum (WFF)

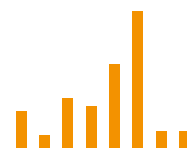
Launched in 2021 by the FAO Youth Committee, the WFF is an independent, youth-led global network of partners facilitated and hosted by FAO. It serves as an inclusive knowledge and action platform created for and led by youth to spark a movement to transform global agrifood systems. The WFF gathers youth groups and cross-sector stakeholders to drive awareness, engagement, advocacy and mobilize resources in support of agrifood systems transformation.

It features a range of interactive events, activities and competitions in the areas of policy, innovation, education and culture related to food and agriculture. Bringing together youth from all backgrounds, the WFF hosts youth assemblies and consultations to build capacity in policy advocacy and align on a common agenda. An annual WFF Flagship event is organized every October in conjunction with FAO Science and Innovation Forum and FAO Hand-in-Hand Investment Forum, creating an intergenerational space for dialogue and action.

Further reading:

World Food Forum (WFF)

www.world-food-forum.org



Related products – Pillar 5



FAO. 2022. *Mainstreaming youth in FAO's Work Programme*. Rome.

<https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc2675en>

This vademecum provides notions on why “youth” have been identified as a cross-cutting theme in FAO’s Strategic Framework, who can be defined as youth, what is the specific Key Performance Indicator (KPI) and how to better include them in FAO’s activities while also providing notions on where to search for specific data and information on youth while designing or programming an activity.



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PILLAR 1

Support youth participation in rural development, within the context of integrated landscape and territorial approaches.



PILLAR 2

Foster youth employment in an inclusive green economy within the three pillars of sustainability: social, environmental and economic.



PILLAR 3

Strengthen rural youth capacities for the use of innovative approaches and technologies in food and agriculture.



PILLAR 4

Promote rural services for youth and agripreneurs.



PILLAR 5

Building FAO institutional capacity to address rural youth areas of work.

Inclusive Rural Transformation and Gender Equality

Economic and Social Development

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www.fao.org/economic/social-policies-rural-institutions

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