

# Rural employment and decent work at FAO

## News from the web



“Eradicate poverty and hunger” is the first Millennium Development Goal (MDG) set out by world leaders in the United Nations Millennium Declaration (2000). It includes the target 1.B “Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people”. Decent rural employment is key to achieving food security and alleviating poverty. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has committed, through its Strategic Framework, to ensure that decent rural employment creation is integrated into agricultural and rural development policies, programmes and partnerships.

This issue shares some of the work that FAO carried out in the first half of 2013 on gender-equitable decent rural employment (DRE) for poverty reduction and food security, in terms of normative work, technical cooperation and capacity development, as well as advocacy and strategic partnerships.

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## Highlights

### New – Decent rural employment for food security: A case for action leaflet

FAO’s recently published *Decent rural employment for food security: A case for action leaflet* builds a strong case around the need to promote decent rural employment (DRE) as a means to achieve long-term food security and reduce poverty in areas where the vast majority of the world’s hungry people live.



Employment opportunities for rural people are in fact often characterized by very low-return rates and exploitative arrangements that fail to ensure sufficient income to access adequate food at all times.

This leaflet was developed to highlight and make more accessible key concepts presented in the full publication, including the positive implications that DRE can bring along all four dimensions of food security, namely: availability, access, utilization and stability. It also details current opportunities for expanding FAO’s work on decent employment by taking into account FAO’s comparative advantage, its work to date on this issue

and the existing priorities as well as challenges across world regions.

Download the leaflet: [www.fao.org/docrep/018/i2933e/i2933e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i2933e/i2933e.pdf)

### New video illustrates FAO’s work on decent rural employment

FAO’s commitment to DRE was clearly reiterated in its revised Strategic Framework namely under Strategic Objective 3 Reduce Rural Poverty, which features “*increased access by the rural poor to decent farm and non-farm employment*” as an explicit Organizational Outcome.

To provide a simple yet powerful illustration of how FAO, in close collaboration with the ILO and other relevant stakeholders, is working to address decent work challenges in rural areas – FAO’s DRE Team recently released a new video – *Transforming knowledge into action: FAO’s Work on Decent Rural Employment*. The video provides a useful advocacy tool to be presented to government and development partners alike, which explains how FAO is working to address decent work challenges in rural areas through the effective combination of its normative work, technical support and policy advice.

To watch the video, visit: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=KorY1Et7xVw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KorY1Et7xVw)

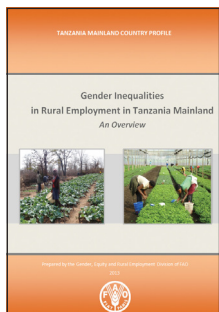


## Sida-supported intervention in Malawi and Tanzania (2011-2013)

### New Country Profile: Gender inequalities in rural employment in Tanzania Mainland

Within the three-year country-level intervention “Policy support on rural employment and decent work towards equitable and sustainable livelihoods” that is being implemented in Malawi and Tanzania with the support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), FAO completed a detailed Country Profile on the gender inequalities in rural employment within Tanzania Mainland.

The Country Profile, jointly developed and co-financed by FAO’s Gender Policy Analysis and Capacities Team, contributes to a better understanding of the types and degree of existing gender inequalities in rural employment in Tanzania Mainland. The profile serves as a policy support tool for integrating and monitoring gender equality and DRE issues into rural development policies and programmes.



Findings from the report show that, despite a relative gender parity in access to primary schooling, rural women lag behind their male counterparts in education. The profile also highlights that, in spite of the fact that rural women play a key role in farming, they face

major constraints in access to productive resources. Their heavy engagement in domestic, caregiving and community activities also limits their productive and educational potential. Moreover, while a large portion of rural women and men perform multiple jobs, women are over-represented in unpaid employment, particularly in their second occupation.

The Country Profile is accompanied by a Policy Brief that highlights key areas where greater policy attention is needed to promote more productive and equitable employment opportunities for adult as well as young rural women and men.

For more information: [www.fao-ilo.org/fao-ilo-gender/en/](http://www.fao-ilo.org/fao-ilo-gender/en/)

## More and better jobs for rural youth

### Junior Farmer Field and Life School graduate inspires change in her community

Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools (JFFLS) aim to boost youth employment opportunities in agriculture and rural areas. Zaituni Maabadi Kombo, a recent JFFLS graduate, recounts how this learning experience inspired her to set up her own agricultural cooperative:

“Initially, the village leaders did not recognize my efforts to mobilize youth engagement in agriculture, but I am sure they will be convinced once they see

how young people are generating income and are contributing to the community’s well-being through their horticulture activities” says Zaituni, a JFFLS graduate from Zanzibar.

When Zaituni returned to her village from the JFFLS training organized by FAO in October 2012, she was determined to



establish a youth group of agro producers with a view of agriculture as a business. Yet, Zaituni met some challenges when, initially, village leaders failed to offer her their support. She went ahead on her own and established Vijana Kazi, a group of 17 members aged 19 to 26 years. In Kiswahili, Vijana Kazi means “working youth”, and the name was handpicked to highlight that agriculture can represent a valid source of self-employment for young people in Zanzibar.

Ali Abeid, a former JFFLS graduate, provided Zaituni and her peers with a demonstration plot for group learning, and they have now harvested their first eggplants. Some of these have been sold at the market while the rest was kept for consumption. The group used the revenue to invest in further inputs and is now growing sweet peppers and zucchini in the hope of selling them to local hotels.

“Agriculture is perceived as a lifestyle more than a business venture, but we want to do commercial farming - there are many market opportunities here in Zanzibar thanks to the tourism industry”, explains Zaituni.

Vijana Kazi now has its own constitution in place and is in the process of registering as a primary cooperative society. To help strengthen their business approach, Zaituni will also attend a training on marketing skills and she has already won the support of the Second Vice President’s wife – who has promised to support Vijana Kazi and advocate in favour of greater employment opportunities for youth in agriculture.

## Preventing and reducing child labour

### Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar: Preventing child labour in the livestock and fisheries sectors

To enhance institutional mechanisms for the prevention of child labour in the livestock and fisheries sectors, a series of five, one-day workshops were held in March in mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar. The workshops were jointly organized by FAO and the Ministries of Livestock and Fisheries Development (MLFD). The Child Labour Units of the respective Ministries of Labour and Employment (MoLE), as well as the ILO



also collaborated on the initiative.

Overall, 84 directors and technical staff from the MLFD and MoLE

participated in the trainings. Through workshop presentations and discussions facilitated by FAO, participants gained valuable knowledge of the distinction between acceptable children's work and child labour, relevant national legislation and the particular hazards faced by children in the fisheries and livestock sectors.

Existing national action plans and coordinating mechanisms were also reviewed, and special focus was given to the valuable role that agricultural stakeholders can play in preventing and reducing child labour. Participants were also encouraged to develop innovative solutions geared towards addressing the root causes of child labour and to propose ways in which these could be integrated into the ministries' regular activities.

For more information: [www.fao-ilo.org/fao-ilo-child/en/](http://www.fao-ilo.org/fao-ilo-child/en/)

### World Day Against Child Labour 2013

At FAO headquarters, FAO and ILO representatives from the International Partnership for Cooperation on Child Labour in Agriculture hosted the event "Step up to the plate, Say NO to child labour in agriculture!". The event raised awareness among agriculture and labour stakeholders, and called for child labour concerns to be considered in programmes and policies of agriculture organizations.

A short FAO-ILO video, featuring children's own views on child labour in agriculture, was screened



at the event, and the *FAO-ILO Guidance on addressing child labour in fisheries and aquaculture* was launched. This

document offers for the first time a global overview of child labour in the different fisheries and aquaculture subsectors: small- and large-scale capture fisheries, aquaculture and post-harvest activities.

Download the publication: [www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3318e/i3318e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3318e/i3318e.pdf)

To watch the video, visit: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ty9FUpeXNCs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ty9FUpeXNCs)

### E-Learning course on child labour in agriculture

FAO is in the process of developing an e-Learning course on child labour in agriculture that will target ministries of agriculture, livestock, fisheries, forestry and related government stakeholders, as well as

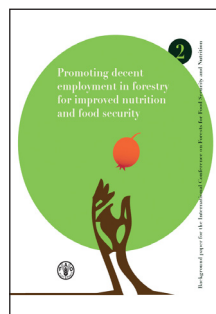
producers' organizations, research institutes and FAO staff in headquarters and decentralized offices.

The overall goal of the e-Learning course is to scale-up capacity development support for agricultural stakeholders and to provide concrete solutions and skills, which can be applied in real life agricultural policy and programming situations.

In June, a curriculum development workshop brought together a variety of development partners, as well as FAO and ILO staff members from different technical areas to ensure that the course will meet the needs of targeted stakeholders.

### Other news...

#### Promoting decent employment in forestry for improved nutrition and food security



FAO prepared a background paper *Promoting decent employment in forestry for improved nutrition and food security* for the International Conference on Forests for Food Security and Nutrition (Rome, 13–15 May 2013).

Promoting decent employment in forestry contributes to achieving food security and nutrition. More and better jobs in forestry will ensure increased employment opportunities, higher incomes and productivity, as well as safer and more stable working conditions.

The paper suggests the following priority areas: (i) better integrating decent employment concerns in forest policies and programmes; (ii) increasing opportunities for entrepreneurship and employment avoiding deforestation and forest degradation; (iii) improving working conditions for forest workers; (iv) strengthening producers' organizations and forestry workers' unions; (v) extending the outreach of forest certification schemes and codes of conduct that include social and labour aspects relevant to small-scale forestry.

For more information: [www.fao.org/forestry/food-security/81696/en](http://www.fao.org/forestry/food-security/81696/en)

#### Launch of the SO3 Programmatic Regional Initiative in Ghana

Through its revised Strategic Framework, the Organization will mobilize human and financial resources to reduce rural poverty with a focus on the African region. Toward this aim, FAO implements the Strategic Objective 3 - *Programmatic Regional Initiative in Ghana* (SO3-PRI-Ghana), a multi-disciplinary approach to rural poverty reduction, which involves a diverse group of technical divisions, decentralized offices, national representations and development partners.

The SO3-PRI-Ghana consists of activities both at the national policy level and in one cassava-growing district of Northern Ghana. At the policy level, it is expected to strengthen the capacities of Government agencies to map, formulate and implement integrated and equitable poverty reduction policies and programmes. In the selected district, rural development stakeholders such as rural institutions and producers' organization will be strengthened so as to actively participate in policy and decision-making processes. Livelihood and decent employment options, linked to the cassava value chain, and diversification with off-farm activities will be explored and promoted. All activities will promote gender equality and the participation of youth.

### **FAO and ILO call for increased collaboration on decent rural employment**

ILO and FAO are working together to promote decent employment for food security and rural poverty reduction. FAO's collaboration with ILO is based on a Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2004. Both organizations are undergoing significant reforms by

defining new strategic objectives and priorities that show significant elements of correspondence, which provides scope for intensified and more strategic inter-agency collaboration.

A technical meeting took place in Geneva on 25-26 February 2013 to discuss ongoing joint ILO-FAO activities and expansion of the collaboration under a more programmatic approach. This aimed at fostering systematic and strategic collaboration in the core areas of knowledge tools, normative and advocacy work, as well as in-country support to member governments on employment and labour issues related to rural areas, food security, social protection and poverty reduction.

In May 2013, the respective Director Generals of FAO and ILO met and called for closer collaboration on social issues. On this occasion, FAO Director General recalled the importance of issues of decent employment, social protection, and child labour in agriculture for achieving food security and reducing rural poverty.

## **Recent publications:**

### ***Decent rural employment for food security: A case for action (and related leaflet)***



This case for action argues that creating more and better jobs in rural areas is essential to achieving food security and reducing poverty. Decent jobs will enable households to maintain a stable level and quality of food consumption and contribute to the overall social sustainability of agri-food systems.

Full publication: [www.fao.org/docrep/015/i2750e/i2750e00.pdf](http://www.fao.org/docrep/015/i2750e/i2750e00.pdf)

Leaflet: [www.fao.org/docrep/018/i2933e/i2933e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i2933e/i2933e.pdf)

### ***Guidance on addressing child labour in fisheries and aquaculture***



This document aims to provide guidance to governments and development partners on how to find practical pathways to address child labour and provide support to fishers, fish farmers and fish workers, particularly in the small-scale sector.

[www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3318e/i3318e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3318e/i3318e.pdf)

### ***Second Edition: Guidance on how to address rural employment and decent work concerns in FAO country activities***



This document is designed to provide key conceptual information, important tools and examples of concrete actions to enable FAO country staff to address decent rural employment within their programmes, projects and activities. This second edition has benefited from field testing in 31 FAO Decentralized Offices.

[www.fao.org/docrep/013/i1937e/i1937e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/i1937e/i1937e.pdf)

### ***Children's work in the livestock sector: Herding and beyond***



This explorative study aims to give an overview of available data on child labour in the livestock sector and indicate potential avenues for action. It provides a basis for further research and discussion on this topic, in order to reach a common understanding of what efforts need to be prioritized and to encourage governments and other stakeholders to address this issue.

[www.fao.org/docrep/017/i3098e/i3098e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/i3098e/i3098e.pdf)

### ***Promoting employment and entrepreneurship for vulnerable youths in West Bank and Gaza Strip***



This case study describes FAO activities to improve youth skills and abilities to generate income in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It also emphasizes the role of women's associations and the creation of youth farmers' clubs grouping Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools (JFFLS) graduates in the rural areas, which can help to establish a stable basis for rural people to gain voice and representation.

[www.fao.org/docrep/012/i1450e/i1450e00.pdf](http://www.fao.org/docrep/012/i1450e/i1450e00.pdf)