



Co-Country Representatives / Core team | Terms of Reference

Young Professionals for Agricultural Development (YPARD)

Young Professionals for Agricultural Development (YPARD) is the largest global, youth-led network in the agrifood systems. It has a network reach of over 30 000 young professionals with over 60 chapters (countries) across Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America run by and for young professionals.

Each of our Country Chapters has a national representative, or Country Representative, who provides local YPARD representation in the candidate's country of residence. This is a **voluntary (unpaid) position for 50 hours/year**, and the Representative is expected to remain in their post for one year, following which they may be reappointed based on interest and approval from the YPARD Global Coordinating Unit (GCU). For several Chapters, especially newly activated ones, there can be **two Co-Country Representatives** appointed, with an eye on gender balance. Along with the Country Representative(s), core team members can include Communications FP, Partnerships FP, or similar.

Benefits of becoming a YPARD Co-Country Representative / member of core team

If you're a young professional under the age of 35 that is active in the agricultural and food systems sector, who is seeking to network with other like minded young professionals and create a network in your region, you can become a YPARD Co-Country Representative!

For you, this means:

- Opportunity to build your skills in leading a team, building engagement amongst members of a community, and practical project management- both through learning by doing, but also by benefiting from YPARD Standard Operating Procedures.
- Formal title as YPARD Co-Country Representative (and other roles as relevant) to ease applications to funding/projects/events, with support from the YPARD Global Coordinating Unit (GCU)
- Ability to create your own initiatives on a local level, that will be amplified by the GCU to our other members, partners, and general audience.
- Access and participation opportunity in global and regional agri-food systems conventions and events (based on your overall engagement with YPARD activities).

- Certificates of engagement for all members of the core team.

The responsibilities of this post include:

- To represent and be an ambassador for YPARD in the region;
- To make connections with relevant youth and food systems organizations in your region;
- Publicise YPARD in your region and create a local community in your country of residence;
- To provide updates on YPARD initiatives in your region and communicate these activities to the regional and global coordination units.
- Engage in fundraising for YPARD country office initiatives at national, regional or international level;
- Actively work on the local plan and management of activities by forming a local working group of active Young Professionals (YPs);
- Communicate regularly with the YPARD Regional office, including informing them of all local initiatives, so they can spread the word on your great work;
- Implement activities to address the declining interest in agriculture and food systems among young people;
- Depending on the interests of YPARDians in your country of residence you can engage in promoting agriculture in your local institutions.

Eligibility Criteria

Any member of YPARD is eligible to become a country representative. Specifically, you should:

- Be under 35 years of age;
- Live in the country you wish to represent (you do not need to be a citizen of the country, simply a resident (short-term visa, long-term visa, etc.);
- Have a connection to agriculture and food activities through your profession or personal connections;
- Be interested in bringing young professionals in agriculture and food disciplines from your country, region and around the world together to exchange knowledge and experience;
- Have shown interest in the above through your past experiences;
- Have motivation to connect YPARD in your country with the YPARD communities regionally and internationally;
- Have the desire to forge friendships and professional relationships which will last a lifetime.

What sorts of activities might YPARD Country Representatives carry out?

We value creativity and trust at YPARD! YPARD Country Chapters develop and implement their own work plans based on how they believe they can best serve their local community. At the same time, we want to make sure that Country Representatives can make the most out of their role, and that the GCU can adequately support them in their endeavors.

Below are **four required commitments** from our Country Representatives. These are:

1. Submitting a workplan

We request all our Country Representatives to submit a work plan within two weeks of your start date.

This workplan should summarize some of the activities you plan to conduct in your local community as a YPARD Country Representative, created in consultation with other YPARD members in your country (if applicable). If you want to be super meticulous, you can also include a timeline for the workplan and details on how you plan to implement it!

The workplan not only helps us understand how we can better support you, but also gives you a chance to elaborate on and develop all your brilliant ideas.

2. Regular catch-ups with your Regional Coordinator/GCU

Communication is key at YPARD!

We want to make sure that there is an open line of exchange between Country Representatives, Regional Coordinators, and the GCU.

So we ask all Country Representatives to join a catch-up meeting every three months at the least. Apart from the regular catch-ups, we are always available to have impromptu chats with you!

3. Submission of articles on YPARD Country Activities

One of the best things about being part of such a wide network at YPARD is the chance to showcase your local and country activities/projects.

To showcase your activities, both to get recognition for your hard work and to make others aware of your project, we encourage Country Representatives to send us an article with accompanying pictures. We expect **at least two article submissions** a year, but the more the merrier!

YPARD GCU will feature it on our website, social media, and in our newsletter, and you can use these links to promote your activities—including when applying for funding to take your work to the next level.

4. Keeping track of your Chapter's growth

As you build your Chapter and structure your core team, it is important to measure how the Chapter is growing. We there ask you to monitor and note down the members of your core team (for new Chapters,

at least one Communications Coordinator and one Partnerships Coordinator or similar), attendees in your events, and the most active volunteers in your Chapter.

As a recognition of engagement, YPARD GCU will issue certificates to the core team, active volunteers, and specific event participants (on receiving appropriate notification and information, and in coordination with the Country Representative). We are also in the process of coordinating specific incentives (webpage, access to exclusive training, social media spotlight, etc) for Chapters based on their growth stage.

Want to take your engagements as a Country Representative to the next level?

Besides three commitments mentioned above, the only limit to your engagement in YPARD is your creativity! In addition to interacting with the Regional and Global Coordinating Units of YPARD to pass on opportunities to YPARD members in your country, YPARD CRs often organize a variety of activities with their fellow members. We have listed a few of them below:

YPARD Cafes

YPARD Cafes are **virtual or physical** knowledge-sharing and capacity-building events organized by YPARD's Country Chapters. These Cafes provide a platform for young professionals and community members to come together physically and engage in discussions on country-specific challenges and opportunities in agrifood systems. They build the network while focusing on technical agricultural training and professional skills development. To enhance hands-on learning, the YPARD National Cafes are complemented by farm visits, where participants engage with local farmers, agripreneurs, and industry professionals to gain practical business insights.

The main objective is to build a community between YPARD members in your country. YPARD Cafes can be as simple as informal meetings to **gather young professionals in the community** to discuss and exchange ideas and information on agricultural topics. Virtual Cafes usually have expert **speakers for a presentation and discussion** on a specific topic of interest: it can be [held by a single Country Chapter](#) or in [collaboration with several Country Chapters](#). The physical Cafes can be made **practically engaging** by complementing them with [an interactive physical workshop on a specific theme](#), or with [a field visit to a local farmer](#), food production factory, research station, or any other relevant place of interest.

The best part about YPARD Cafes is that you get to decide what form it takes, and your imagination is the only limit!

YPARD Community Solution Projects

Have you come across a burning issue related to agrifood systems in your local, national or regional community? YPARD Community Solution Projects are projects or initiatives developed to address those community needs.

Examples of YPARD community engagement projects have been small and large. For example, YPARD Peru hosts an [agroecology school for rural youth](#) each year; [YPARD DRC has started Tilapia fish production](#) as a pilot project to help local farmers access and improve aquaculture; [YPARD Kenya is working with school children on a garden project](#).

Country Chapters have also started initiatives for education in agribusiness, agricultural research, and practical farming practices, and are working with the YPARD GCU and their RC (Regional Coordinators) to apply for competitive funding to take their ideas to the next level.

YPARD Policy Working Group (PWG)

YPARD makes inputs to policy and decision-making at the national, continental, and global levels.

The YPARD Policy Working Group is all about knowledge exchange and peer-to-peer learning about various policy making processes. We coach young professionals on how to engage with different youth constituencies of the UN, connecting the different Rio conventions, advocacy preparation for youth representatives, and much more.

As a Country Representative or core team member, you are encouraged to join the PWG especially if you are interested in policy work. Examples of papers published by the PWG can be found [here](#).

YPARD Fundraising Working Group (FWG)

Fundraising through diverse sources is key in making a youth-led network like YPARD thrive.

Launched in 2026, the YPARD Fundraising Working Group is a collaborative space designed to strengthen chapter members' capacity in resource management and mobilization. Its goal is to facilitate access to up-to-date information on funding opportunities and to provide practical tools for developing competitive proposals.

You can apply to join the FWG through [this link](#).

Join the YPARD Comms Working Group (CWG)

Consistent, engaging, and strategic communication is key in promoting visibility of initiatives led by YPARD members. Whether it is at the global, regional, or local levels, if an activity is not well documented and photographed, it's almost as if it never happened!

To facilitate members' capacities on strategic internal and external communications, the YPARD Communications Working Group was launched in 2026. This collaborative space is for sharing best practices and brainstorming ideas to keep increasing the visibility of YPARD and its members.

You can apply to join the CWG through [this link](#). Please note that you must be a Communications Focal Point (or similar) in an existing YPARD Country Chapter to be part of this WG.

YPARD Country Mailing List and Social Media Pages

There is no YPARD without our members! Be sure to create a mailing list for your country members and log in (or create) Country level social media pages to keep up with members.

To make your work easier, we have created some templates and a Standard Operating Procedure to optimize your work and help put your most professional foot forward.

Seeking a Host Organisation in your country

Having an official host organization in your country can help YPARD in your country with a number of practical matters.

For instance, the host organization may be willing to let you use meeting rooms to convene YPARD members or even larger meetings, collaborate on key events together, provide institutional support if competitive funds are brought in for country-level projects (for example, they may be able to receive an institutional bank transfer).

If you are interested in approaching local organizations or institutions for these purposes, you can use [this template](#) to approach organizations. **Be sure to contact the YPARD GCU if you find an interested organization. The GCU can assist you with the process, such as being involved in the communication process or signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the hosting organization.**

Ready to start a new Chapter in your country?

How to Apply

Please send:

- Both applicants' CV
- A short motivation statement explaining why you would like to serve as YPARD Malawi Co-Country Representatives
- A brief indication of how you intend to collaborate and share responsibilities

Reach out to **Kofi Kisiedu Acquaye, Africa Regional Coordinator** at africa@ypard.net

CC: trisha.mandal@ypard.net.

We will then schedule a short get-to-know-you call with you, following which we will let you know the next steps of establishing a Chapter.

Applications must be submitted by 31 May 2026.

We look forward to hearing from you!