

Input to the Rural Civil Society Consultation on IFAD's 14th Replenishment



We welcome the ambition of the Fourteenth Replenishment of IFAD and its clear focus on investing in rural people as a pathway to food security, economic growth, and stability. The framing of IFAD as the institution of the “first mile” is particularly important—because it recognizes that transformation must begin with those who are currently the furthest from markets, finance, and opportunity.

From a civil society perspective, we strongly support the emphasis on rural employment, especially for youth, as a core pillar of IFAD14. However, we stress that the goal must go beyond job creation alone. What is needed is **decent work**—work that provides fair income, security, dignity, and meaningful participation in decision-making..

As IFAD strengthens its results architecture, this also presents an opportunity to **embed job quality more explicitly within how success is measured**—ensuring that employment outcomes reflect not only quantity, but the quality and sustainability of livelihoods.

Too often, rural employment remains informal, low-paid, and vulnerable. Without a deliberate focus on quality, employment risks reinforcing cycles of poverty rather than transforming them. We therefore encourage IFAD14 to continue strengthening its focus on **productive, remunerative, and rights-based livelihoods**, in line with its integrated approach to addressing structural constraints.

In this regard, we also emphasize the importance of embedding **rights-based principles**—including inclusion, accountability, and non-discrimination—across IFAD14 implementation, ensuring that rural people, particularly youth, women, and marginalized groups, are not only beneficiaries but active agents in shaping agrifood systems..

This also requires moving beyond participation as representation. IFAD14 rightly emphasizes partnerships as platforms for scale and impact. Building on this, **youth and civil society engagement should evolve toward co-design and co-implementation**.

We encourage IFAD to systematically engage youth organizations and civil society actors already at the **project design stage, including within country programme processes**, recognizing us as partners who bring grounded knowledge, local legitimacy, and delivery capacity—not only as stakeholders to be consulted, but as co-creators of solutions.

Input to the Rural Civil Society Consultation on IFAD's 14th Replenishment



Equally, we see strong alignment between IFAD's objectives and agroecological approaches, which contribute to resilience, strengthen local economies, and reduce dependency on volatile external inputs—fully consistent with IFAD14's integrated resilience and natural resource management focus.

This connects directly to the need for climate **finance for a just transition in agrifood systems**—one that ensures that the shift toward more sustainable and climate-resilient systems creates equitable opportunities, protects livelihoods, and does not leave rural people behind.

At the same time, we would like to underline one critical point regarding how resources are channeled.

Civil society organizations are not only implementing partners—we are long-term anchors within rural communities. We remain present before, during, and after political cycles, and we sustain trust, continuity, and accountability at the local level. In contexts of fragility or transition, we often ensure that investments continue to reach the most vulnerable.

For this reason, we encourage IFAD14 to **strengthen and scale mechanisms that enable resources to reach civil society and grassroots actors**, including through flexible and accessible financing approaches. This would reinforce IFAD's delivery model and further strengthen its reach to the first mile.

In closing, IFAD14 represents an opportunity not only to scale investment, but to strengthen how that investment reaches people. Embedding **decent work in results, co-design in partnerships, and equity in transition pathways** will be key to achieving durable, inclusive, and resilient rural transformation.

Input to the Rural Civil Society Consultation on IFAD's 14th Replenishment



Key Messages

- ▶ YPARD welcome the ambition of the Fourteenth Replenishment of IFAD and its clear focus on investing in rural people as a pathway to food security, economic growth and stability
- ▶ We strongly support the emphasis on rural employment, especially for youth, as a core pillar of IFAD14. However, we would like to stress that the goal must go beyond job creation alone. What is needed is **decent work**—work that provides fair income, security, dignity, and meaningful participation in decision-making.
- ▶ We also emphasize the importance of embedding **rights-based principles**, across IFAD14 implementation, ensuring that rural people, particularly youth, women, and marginalized groups, are not only beneficiaries but active agents in shaping agrifood systems
- ▶ This also requires moving beyond participation as representation. IFAD14 rightly emphasizes partnerships as platforms for scale and impact. Building on this, **youth and civil society engagement should evolve toward co-design and co-implementation.**
- ▶ We encourage IFAD14 to **strengthen and scale mechanisms that enable resources to reach civil society and grassroots actors**, including through flexible and accessible financing approaches. This would reinforce IFAD's delivery model and further strengthen its reach to the first mile