



Minutes SDG2 Roadmap TWG Meeting

Participants

Group Members

- Charlotte Bailey, *United Kingdom*
- Christina Connolly, *United Kingdom*
- Ammad Bahalim, *Gates Foundation (Co-Chair)*
- Challiss McDonough, *Gates Foundation*
- Fabrizio Moscatelli, *Gates Foundation*
- Maria Wichmann, *Germany*
- Federica de Gaetano, *Italy*
- Naomi Sterk, *The Netherlands*
- Bruce Campbell, *Switzerland*
- Chris Hillbruner, *United States (Co-Chair)*
- Jaron Porciello, *University of Notre Dame*

Guests

- Kristofer Hamel, *UAE*
- Mohammad Farrae, *UAE*
- Cecilia D'Alessandro, *ECDPM*
- Francesco Rampa, *ECDPM*
- James Henderson, *GPSDD*
- Andrea Ordóñez, *Southern Voice*
- Gloria Carrión, *Southern Voice*

GDPRD Secretariat

- Maurizio Navarra
- Michelle Tang
- Alessandro Cordova
- Monique Amar
- Sierra Berardelli

Agenda

ISSUE	ITEM	DETAILS
1.	Welcome and Introduction	Ammad Bahalim (Gates Foundation), Chris Hillbruner (United States)
2.	TWG ToRs: SDG2 and 1.5C	Ammad Bahalim (Gates Foundation), Chris Hillbruner (United States)
3.	Hesat2030	Jaron Porciello (Notre Dame)
4.	Scoping for an institution to support evidence-based food systems policy and decision making in Rome	Cecilia D'Alessandro (ECDPM), James Henderson (GPSDD), Francesco Rampa (Italy), Andrea Ordóñez (Southern Voice), Gloria Carrión (Southern Voice)
5.	UAE Agricultural Innovation Mechanism for Scale	Mohammad Farrae (COP28), Kristofer Hamel (COP28)
6.	Wrap-up and Closing	Ammad Bahalim (Gates Foundation), Chris Hillbruner (USAID)

Key Highlights/Issues

1. Welcome and Introduction

- Co-Chair Ammad Bahalim (Gates Foundation) will be on paternity leave for the next six months.

2. TWG ToRs: SDG 2 and 1.5C

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

To review and discuss the proposed changes to include the 1.5C target into the TWG Theory of Change/Terms of Reference (ToRs).

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- When the TWG was formed, there was not as much political urgency around the climate crisis as today. The group's co-investments, including Ceres2030/Hesat2030, aim to limit global warming to 1.5°C by building greenhouse gas emissions into their analytical frameworks. More recently, the Emirates Declaration at COP28 and FAO's SDG 2 and 1.5C [Roadmap](#) were released. As such, the TWG Theory of Change/Terms of Reference (ToRs) have been revised to consider the 1.5C target more explicitly. *[Gates Foundation]*

ACTION POINTS

- *TWG members to review and comment on the revised Theory of Change/ToRs by 23 July, when they will be adopted on a no-objections basis.*

3. Hesat2030 Update

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

An update on Hesat2030's current work.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

Juno Evidence Alliance

- The goal of the Juno Evidence Alliance is to collate and repackage vast amounts of information and statistics that already exist, using scientific and technical innovations to solve real-world, complex problems. Trusted, rigorous synthesis is needed to move from anecdotal information and single studies to better knowledge and understanding for policymaking.
- In 2023-2024, Juno supported seven extensive evidence reviews in agri-food systems. One of these seven was the [State of the Field of Research for Agrifood Systems](#) report, which used Artificial intelligence (AI) to evaluate 6.3 million scientific titles, abstracts and metadata from 2010–2023. The report revealed that the most climate-vulnerable countries with the highest hunger rates are the least studied in research articles by global scientists, and that production of food results in higher rates of sustainable economic growth outcomes, but fewer outcomes fostering inclusivity and gender equity.
- Juno polled stakeholders on how they should advance with the report and found an opportunity to engage donors around the common learning and evidence agenda. Juno is therefore interested in understanding if there would be energy and appetite to convene a smaller group of donors to move the agenda forward unilaterally and multilaterally.

Nutrition-Sensitive Interventions Review

- Nutrition-sensitive interventions can lead to increased productivity and agricultural income,

nutrition, knowledge, and gender equity. Without duplicating existing efforts, an umbrella review will be launched to evaluate the quality of the evidence in nutrition-sensitive intervention reports.

- The final review will consider contexts where different interventions work best, effectiveness and costs for bundling interventions, gender and social inclusion, environmental sustainability, and complementarity and contributions to ongoing work.

Zero Hunger Private Sector Pledge

- The Zero Hunger Coalition is a platform that develops evidence-based and costed roadmaps and ensures the alignment of evidence with national food system transformation pathways. Currently, the Coalition is focusing on Bangladesh, Benin, DRC, Cambodia, Madagascar, and Zambia.
- The Zero Hunger Private Sector Pledge is working very closely with companies to ensure that time, resources and other contributions are made in alignment with Ceres2030 recommendations. Pledges continue to grow every year.

ODA Tracker

- The ODA tracker aims to make the case for increasing the quantity and quality of ODA and agriculture and food security, toward the realization of SDG 2. The tracker will offer five unique analyses of aid data not already covered by existing trackers.
- The prototype of the tracker has been designed and illustrates the donor profiles and analysis of Canada and Germany. *[Jaron Porciello]*

Q&A and Discussion:

- While there are many examples of individual donors using AI, there is a lack of awareness and overall coordination among donors using AI for agriculture. Would the SDG 2 TWG want to continue and build this focus on elevating the use of AI? *[Jaron Porciello]*
 - Yes, it would be interesting to have more discussions on AI. *[The Netherlands]*
 - Yes, and perhaps a workshop could be organized to discuss a co-created learning agenda and hear a more detailed update on the ODA tracker work. *[Gates Foundation]*
 - Yes, it would be useful to have a more focused conversation about this work as a follow-up to this initial discussion. *[United States]*
- FCDO is strongly supporting the Juno Evidence Alliance. Rather than individual donors funding specific reviews under Juno, the goal is for a wider collaboration, establishing a common research agenda with a long-term strategically focused program of work. It would be beneficial to have the involvement of other donors to meet these wider strategic aims. *[United Kingdom]*
- Hesat2030 work aligns well with the [Food Security Learning Framework](#), which was put together by the M&E Harmonization Group of Food Security Partners in July 2013, and which should be revisited and revitalized. Further, there is an evidence synthesis mechanism within USAID, and it should be ensured that efforts are not duplicative, but rather proactively engaging and aligning with other evidence synthesis efforts towards sort of a set of common objectives. *[United States]*
- Is the ODA tracker only for Canada and Germany?
 - Answer: The prototype of the tracker is only available for Canada and Germany but the intention is that all other donors can learn from it and that the country view would eventually be available for all donors in this TWG.

ACTION POINTS

- TWG members approved continuing the focus on an AI agenda.

- *Jaron Porciello will organize a workshop after the summer that will cover:*
 1. *Donor interest and discussion around a common global learning agenda*
 2. *A deeper dive into the evidence synthesis work of Hesat2030 and potential ways to connect this work with other efforts.*

4. Scoping for an institution to support evidence-based food systems policy and decision-making in Rome

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

For colleagues from GPSDD, ECDPM, and Southern Voice (the Consortium) to propose their idea for a new think tank/partnership based in Rome.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The Rome-based UN agencies (the RBAs) play a crucial role in global food security and agriculture. However, the increasing challenges of the climate crisis and geopolitics have highlighted that reforms are needed to make Rome's architectural landscape more outcome-oriented towards achieving SDG 2. Based on feedback from agricultural ministries, country representatives in Rome from permanent missions and National Statistics offices, three main issues have been identified:
 1. There is a lack of a network to identify relevant players at the national level to amplify country food systems' needs into international agendas at the RBA's.
 2. Technical and information disparities hinder low-income countries from equitable participation in RBA negotiations.
 3. In Rome, there is a lack of external actors (e.g., independent think tanks, specialized civil society organizations) that support both the RBAs as well country representatives in responding to national and international challenges.
- The Consortium, which includes the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD), the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM), and independent consultants Andrea Ordonez and Gloria Carrion (Southern Voice), therefore proposes the establishment of a new think/tank partnership based in Rome.
- The proposed think tank aims to: (1) provide expertise and knowledge from low-income countries (LICs) to inform policymaking, (2) support technical and negotiating capacities of LIC delegations in Rome, (3) promote effective leadership, participation and accountability of LICs in policy making spaces and (4) build multi-stakeholder coalitions through informal dialogue in the food security and agriculture space.
- The proposal is to repurpose unspent funds from the Gates Foundation (BMGF) under the SDG 2 Roadmap TWG to explore the feasibility of a Rome-based think tank. These funds would finance a 12-month scoping exercise based on existing consultations and tested models implemented by the Consortium. The 12-month scoping exercise would aim to understand how the think tank would be best structured, establish effective communication, and build trust and political buy-in.
- The data advocacy part of this work is being handed over from the Rome Data Champions Group, which GPSDD has been facilitating. This group has seen regular participation from 15–20 member country representatives from diverse regions, with particularly active participation of African countries. *[Gloria Carrión, Cecilia D'Alessandro, James Henderson, Andrea Ordóñez, Francesco Rampa]*

Q&A and Discussion:

- Are there already specific ideas of which countries will be involved? *[Italy]*

- Answer: Not yet, as the details will emerge on a need- and demand-driven basis. LIC countries will be prioritized to be as inclusive and representative as possible. The proposed one-year scoping exercise will also determine the structure of the think tank/partnership and the nature of the work. *[Francesco Rampa]*
- Is there a possible conflict of interest if those involved in the SDG 2 Roadmap TWG, the Consortium, and the future think tank are all the same people? *[Italy]*
 - Answer: The GDPRD Secretariat and the TWG would only be involved in the initial one-year scoping phase, therefore not influencing the final entity. *[Maurizio Navarra]*

ACTION POINTS

- *TWG members have until 9 August to review and comment on the proposal, when it will be adopted on a no-objections basis.*

5. UAE Agricultural Innovation Mechanism for Scale

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

A presentation of the Agriculture Innovation Mechanism for Scaling (AIM for Scale) initiative.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- During COP28 under the UAE Presidency, the Agriculture Innovation Mechanism for Scaling (AIM for Scale) pilot initiative was launched, which is now hosted at the International Affairs Office in the UAE in partnership with the [Innovation Commission for Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change](#) (Innovation Commission) and receives seed funding from the Gates Foundation.
- The initiative aims to leverage evidence and scale innovations, including the seven innovation scaling priority areas recommended by the Innovation Commission (improved weather forecast; digital agriculture; training for rainwater harvesting; climate-resilient livelihood programs; alternative proteins; innovations to reduce methane emissions; microbial fertilizer), and design broad-based partnerships to mobilize investments and agriculture innovation.
- The initiative's first "Innovation Package" focuses on weather-based information services, identified by the Innovation Commission as having high impact for smallholders and climate resilience. The prototype weather package will include components of observation data, forecast production, benchmarking and validation, dissemination, and learning and impact. AIM for Scale plans to launch the weather-based announcement at COP 29 and develop further Innovation Packages by COP 30. *[UAE]*

Q&A and Discussion:

- What is the timeline of next steps and when more information be available? *[Gates Foundation]*
 - Answer: As of July 1, this concept is live and will be increasingly refined over the next two months. The design will be finalized and validated in mid-September, and then focus will be on promotion of the concept and organization of an event at COP 29. If any members of the TWG are interested in fine tuning the concept over the coming months or getting involved in the Partnership Coalition, please reach out to for a bilateral discussion. *[UAE]*
- What is the relationship with the UAE? Will successive COP Presidencies potentially engage with this? *[Gates Foundation]*

- **Answer:** This is a flagship initiative of the UAE's COP 28 Presidency; His Highness has committed additional funding to it and has also opened a project management office in his court to oversee its development. This is a four-year partnership, and is currently aiming to incubate an organization that can scale specific innovations and build the organizational infrastructure. *[UAE]*
- The Netherlands has supported a similar initiative which uses geodata for reliable weather forecasts, the [Geodata for Agriculture and Water](#) (G4AW), together with the Netherlands Space Office. *[Netherlands]*
- Can you discuss the existing work that the Commission has done with the Potsdam Institute?
[Gates Foundation]
 - **Answer:** In partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Livelihoods and Development in India, the Commission disseminated monsoon onset forecasts to pilot farming communities via text message. These predictions are available earlier than traditional forecasts and predict the actual onset of the monsoon deluge. Potsdam developed this model, which has been highly predictive for over a decade. This improved monsoon forecasting is being scaled from 10 million farmers to 60-70 million in 2025. The goal is to replicate this model in other countries and address other aspects of the weather forecasting chain by working with development banks and others and building a broader coalition of countries beyond the monsoon region. *[UAE]*
- Can the UAE update the group on the status of the National Food Systems Technical Cooperation Collaborative (TCC) in a future session? *[Germany]*
 - **Answer:** Yes. *[Gates Foundation]*

ACTION POINTS

- *Members to consider the UAE joining as a regular member of the TWG by 23 July, when they will be invited on a no-objections basis.*

6. Wrap-up and Closing

ACTION POINTS

- *The next SDG 2 Roadmap TWG meeting will be announced in due course.*