



# Board Meeting

## Participants

### Board Members

- **Ioulia Drossinou**, *European Commission*
- **Camilla Fusato**, *European Commission*
- **Fabrizio Moscatelli**, *Gates Foundation*
- **Jan Brix**, *Germany*
- **Julia Davidson**, *Germany*
- **Federica Cerulli**, *IFAD*
- **Federica Diamanti**, *IFAD*
- **Patrick McManus**, *Ireland*
- **Federica de Gaetano**, *Italy (Co-Chair)*
- **Bruce Campbell**, *Switzerland (Co-Chair)*
- **Jan Bade**, *The Netherlands*
- **Wilma Van Esch**, *The Netherlands*

### Guests

- **Nikita Eriksen-Hamel**, *Canada*

### GDPRD Secretariat

- **Maurizio Navarra**
- **Michelle Tang**
- **Alessandro Cordova**
- **Sierra Berardelli**
- **Monique Amar**
- **Carlotta Cramer**
- **Jim Woodhill**, *Senior Advisor*

## Agenda

ISSUE	ITEM	DETAILS
1.	Welcome and Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Welcome remarks by Federica Diamanti, newly appointed Associate Vice-President, External Relations, IFAD</li></ul>	Co-Chairs/Secretariat/IFAD
2.	Proposed Platform input to 2025 financing agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Platform contribution to the 2025 Financing for Development Conference</li><li>- Contributions and products for the N4G, UNFSS+4, COP 30, etc.</li><li>- Discussion on the 2025 AGA theme</li></ul>	Jim Woodhill
3.	Discussions on 2026-2031 Strategic Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Overall priorities</li><li>- Process</li></ul>	Co-Chairs/Secretariat/Jim Woodhill
4.	Communications – review of 2024 activities and perspectives for 2025	Secretariat
5.	Proposed 2025 work plan and budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Work plan review and approval</li><li>- Budget review and approval</li><li>- Discussion on membership fees</li></ul>	Secretariat/Co-Chairs
6.	Discussion with Canadian G7 Presidency	Global Affairs Canada
7.	AOB and closing	Co-Chairs

# Key Highlights/Issues

## 1. Welcome and Introduction

- The Co-Chairs welcomed Board members to the first, hybrid Board Meeting of 2025.
- Board members recognized the absence of USAID amid shifting administrative priorities, including the possibility of its permanent closure. This presents significant challenges for the Platform and the broader development community. In response to this uncertainty, the Platform must continue to serve as a channel for open communication while upholding multilateralism and coordination as top priorities.
- Agricultural and rural development (ARD) are not just a development priority. They are global imperatives. We must ensure donors continue working together so that ARD remains at the forefront of international discussions, which is critical to addressing food security, climate resilience, and sustainable economic growth. At a time of growing fragmentation and uncertainty, informal networks like the Platform play a vital role in shaping global narratives and influencing policy directions in ways formal structures is essential. The Platform is a global public good and has heightened value in an era of increasing uncertainty. There are ample opportunities in 2025 for the Platform to engage in the global financing discussions with high impact. **[Federica Diamanti]**
- As the host of the Platform, IFAD reiterates its institutional support for the GDPRD and its mandate. **[Federica Diamanti]**

## 2. Proposed Platform input to 2025 financing agenda

### PURPOSE OF SECTION:

*To review and discuss the activities proposed for the GDPRD to support member engagement with the financing agenda throughout 2025. [Annex I]*

### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The Platform aims to support its members to engage strategically in key global events in 2025, including the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4), the Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit, the UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS+4) Stocktaking Moment and the 2025 UN Climate Change Conference (COP30). The following actions are proposed to achieve this level of support:
  - A **White Paper** synthesizing research and recommendations from previous GDPRD reports and discussions, which will expand on critical themes such as shifting financing narratives, increasing risk tolerance, expanding innovative financing mechanisms, enhancing coordination, addressing structural constraints, supporting policy reforms, and strengthening data transparency. The paper will incorporate emerging trends, including digitalization, artificial intelligence (AI), and value-for-money.
    - The White Paper would cover three main areas: 1) multilateral financing institutions for development, 2) donor coordination, particularly around blended finance and 3) supporting country-level enabling environments.
    - The paper would serve as an informal document for the GDPRD audience, similar to the White Paper that was compiled for the Food Systems Summit in 2021.
  - A **briefing note for N4G Summit**, and additional briefing notes for events such as the UNFSS+4 and the UNFCCC COP 30, as deemed relevant by the Board.

- A **high-level convening** alongside the FfD4 Conference.
- The **2025 Annual General Assembly (AGA)**, dedicated to financing, with a theme that will expand on findings of the high-level convening and the White Paper, along with outcomes from the N4G, FfD4 and UNFSS+4 events.
- A **high-level advisory group** is suggested to be established, to provide thought leadership and expert guidance on all the aforementioned items. This advisory group would guide inputs to the said white paper and other briefs to be prepared, as well as support the GDPRD Board in engaging meaningfully.

### **Discussion and Q&A:**

- A zero draft official outcome document of the FfD4 is already in circulation, but rural development and food security are not strongly emphasized. The sequencing of the White Paper should be strategically planned to maximize its influence on FfD4 outcomes. If possible, an earlier submission may be more impactful. **[Ireland]**
  - Acknowledging the tight timelines, the Secretariat would begin work on the White Paper immediately. Even if not formally submitted to the conference, the objective is to influence the discussions and outcome document. **[Jim Woodhill, Maurizio Navarra]**
- Given the short amount of time until the N4G Summit, how realistic is it to create a briefing note ahead of the conference? **[The Netherlands]**
  - Much of the research and content is already available in the AGA background brief and would be expanded upon, together with informal deliberations with the Board, to produce this briefing note. **[Jim Woodhill, Maurizio Navarra]**
- Who would be part of the high-level advisory group and convening? Would non-traditional donors be included? Would Board Members or the Secretariat be the ones to propose the members of this group? **[The Netherlands]**
  - The Board's input on potential members is required. Initial proposals suggest a small group of circa 10 representatives including key donors, financial institutions (e.g., IFAD, the World Bank, regional development banks), CGIAR, and philanthropies focused on food and rural development. The aim is high-level endorsement to feed the Platform's inputs to key global processes. **[Jim Woodhill, Maurizio Navarra]**
- The EU fully supports the high-level working group and convening. Will the draft White Paper be circulated with the Board before publication? **[EU]**
  - All documents will be circulated for Board review and approval. Due to tight timelines, the review period may be shortened. **[Maurizio Navarra]**
- BMZ is organizing the Second Hamburg Sustainability Conference this year, which will include a session on reforming the international financing architecture and unlocking finance for the SDGs. This event may be considered for engagement in 2025. **[Germany]**

### **DECISION POINT**

- The proposed engagements with the 2025 financing agenda were approved by the Board.

## **3. Discussions on 2026-2031 Strategic Plan**

### **PURPOSE OF SECTION:**

*The Secretariat shared the process and proposed initial directions for the 2026-2031 Strategic Plan [\[Annex II\]](#).*

### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- The 2026-2031 Strategic Plan will: review the vision and mission of the Platform; identify

thematic focus areas for the next 5 years; reiterate the governance and funding structure; consider membership modalities; and outline operational principles for the Platform.

- In the last 5 years, the GDPRD has made significant achievements and learned crucial lessons:
  - Strengthened thematic focus, more efficient use of resources despite reduced staffing, and better alignment with member priorities.
  - Better understood the need for more targeted activities with measurable outcomes, learned that efficiency matters, but results must be the priority; and recognized that stronger donor coordination requires clear value proposition.
  - Developed two highly successful [databases](#) with significant reach, reception and added value to members and partners.
  - Enhanced engagement through the four Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) for effective thematic donor coordination.
- The Strategic Plan will incorporate feedback from the 2024 Senior Managers Meeting, including by featuring a specific focus on some emerging issues such as new models of ODA & global financial architecture reform, as well as digitalization and AI. The Plan will also ensure that youth, gender and nutrition remain as relevant cross-cutting priorities.
- Emerging challenges and opportunities identified by Senior Managers in October 2024 may also be addressed in the Strategic Plan. These include evolving models of ODA to adapt to shifting financing landscapes; the growing role of geopolitics and security in food systems; the need for inclusivity with respect to migration and the rural-urban divide; strengthening resilience strategies for the climate-food-energy nexus; and the integration of climate action and sustainability. All areas are underscored by a continued focus on innovation.
- The development of the Strategic Plan will begin with stakeholder interviews over the coming months, a presentation and discussion of the emerging findings at the next informal Board meeting in May/June, the circulation of a first draft ahead of the Senior Managers meeting in the fall.
- A final review will follow, **with the Board clearance and final launch expected in the end of 2025/beginning of 2026.**

### Discussion and Q&A:

- Several critical topics require substantial consideration, including digitalization and AI, nutrition (a priority for Africa), youth and gender. **[Italy]**
- The G20 South African presidency has established a **taskforce on food security**, with Ireland invited as a guest for the first time. This represents a positive continuation of Brazil's work on the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty. **[Ireland]**
- Outcomes from major global events such as FfD4 and COP30 should inform the Strategic Plan. Extending the deadline for the finalization of the Strategic Plan to the first quarter of 2026 may allow for their better integration. **[Ireland]**
- There are overlapping focus areas and challenges which could be synthesized for consistency. Geopolitical challenges could be incorporated as a priority area and water could be included in the climate-food nexus approach. **[The Netherlands]**
- International development rhetoric is shifting towards a narrative on the mutual benefits of aid and trade. This evolving landscape could be addressed in the Strategic Plan. **[The Netherlands]**
  - The Global Gateway, the EU's initiative to invest in infrastructure, also emphasizes

mutual benefits and encourages the private sector to participate more in cooperation. **[Italy]**

- Food security and food systems are different but complementary. For example, food security is strongly related to fragility, while food systems are more connected to economics and value chains. **[EU]**
- The Platform is conducive to finding alignment amongst donors in this new, challenging era of ODA. IFAD agrees with climate and water as key areas of priority. There may be an opportunity to engage with the role of public development banks in fostering investment in rural transformation. A focus on rural transformation is critical, and Ireland's dual presence at the G20 this year and the GDPRD in aligning the two agendas is appreciated. **[IFAD]**
- Changes in the development space are happening rapidly; the GDPRD must be prepared to adaptively correct the course of the Strategic Plan accordingly. **[Switzerland]**
  - Individually, donors are also expecting to undertake flexible and adaptive strategic planning, to be able to respond to changes as they arise. **[Ireland]**
- Ireland is preparing to assume the EU Presidency in 2026, with a strong emphasis on the Global Gateway, leveraging blended finance and private sector engagement. There is concern that a transactional, mutual-benefit approach to development could shift focus away from the SDGs and the most vulnerable communities. **[Ireland]**
- The Global Gateway is the strategy of the European Union. It is a young programme, and the current focus is on scaling up delivery. Goals set now will cover delivery up to 2030. The Global Gateway does focus on investment but is complemented by a fragility component that is more suitable for investing in vulnerable and fragile contexts where 360-degree investment is not possible. **[EU]**

#### **DECISION POINT**

- The Board approved the approach for the development of the new Strategic Plan. Secretariat will follow up in the coming weeks.

## **4. Communications – review of 2024 activities and perspectives for 2025**

#### **PURPOSE OF SECTION:**

*The Secretariat provided an overview of Platform communications in 2024 and directions for 2025 [\[Annex III\]](#).*

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- GDPRD Secretariat communications takes a strategic and targeted approach to maximize impact and reach. Since 2021, communications have evolved, modernizing the approach and brand, increasing audience and engagement, and achieving targeted outreach for strategic influence and advocacy.
- Key communications outputs for 2024 included: 5 flagship publications, including the first digital report marking the Platform's transition to paperless communications; 19 expert interviews and 10 spotlights on the IFAD Podcast; Op-Ed published in Devex and recognized as [Global Voices 2024](#); and many targeted online and hybrid events.
  - The Secretariat successfully grew the reach and targeted engagement of the Platform across online and social media channels: the number of visitors and page views for the **Platform website** grew significantly between 2023 and 2024; the Platform surpassed 5,000 followers on **LinkedIn**, maintaining a targeted high level of seniority and industry relevance amongst the audience; the **Instagram channel**, launched in June 2023 at the request of the Board, doubled

its following in the year to date; the **Quarterly Newsletter** continued to reach a growing audience, performing above industry standards. *[detailed statistics in Annex III]*

- The Platform hosts two Secretariat-developed food systems databases, the Food Systems Recommendations Database and the Food Systems Architecture Database. Both are important knowledge products for Platform members and partners and serve as effective advocacy tools in outreach.
- Three **priority communications goals** have been established in the **2025 Work Plan**:
  - 1) Greater visibility of the Platform's and members' activities, workstreams and events, including through website and social media outreach and leveraging institutional partnerships.
  - 2) Expanded outreach and influencing on social media, leveraging interviews and podcasts, Platform events, and campaigns.
  - 3) Strengthened knowledge sharing and advocacy tools, building on the Databases and knowledge and communications partnerships, expanding the development and use of advocacy tools for the Secretariat and members, and developing a new website Membership Profile space. **[Michelle Tang, Carlotta Cramer]**

## 5. Proposed 2025 work plan and budget

### PURPOSE OF SECTION:

The Secretariat provided a summary of the proposed 2025 Work Plan [\[Annex IV\]](#), including the forecasted budget for 2025 [\[Annex V\]](#).

### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

#### 1) Work Plan

- The proposed 2025 Work Plan takes a more detailed and results-based approach, emphasizing strategic influencing, member responsiveness, and improved communication. Key focus areas include our contribution to the financing agenda, AI in food systems, gender transformation, and donor collaboration. Efforts will also continue to expand the membership base and ensure effective Secretariat operations.
- The Senior Managers Meeting could potentially be held alongside the World Food Forum (13 – 17 October) or the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) 53<sup>rd</sup> Plenary (20 – 24 October) and may also be a fully virtual event, if needed.
- The 2025 AGA could be held in December, alongside the FAO Council (date TBD) or in the beginning of 2026. **[Maurizio Navarra]**
  - It would be useful for the Secretariat to develop a comprehensive agenda of key events in 2025, including the Platform's proposed engagements in financing events and suggestions for the Senior Managers Meeting and AGA. **[The Netherlands]**
- It is important to use the Platform to discuss somewhat contentious issues. The unique space is a valuable forum through which donors may openly discuss, advance thinking on, and find areas of collaboration on emerging topics, without the obligation of finding consensus or developing a freestanding workstream. These may be explored through short online exchanges. **[Switzerland]**
- How have the themes of the TWGs been decided? **[EU]**
  - The [TWGs](#) are formed when there is a critical mass of members and partners



interested in engaging in a particular thematic area. **[Maurizio Navarra]**

- There is a strong momentum around gender, presenting an opportunity for donors to exchange best practices. The Platform could facilitate an initial discussion and explore more formalized engagement in this area. **[EU, Italy]**
  - Gender-related topics could also be explored through standalone events such as webinars or side events at the AGA. **[Jim Woodhill]**
- It would be interesting to explore private sector engagement in development finance. A roundtable event could provide an entry point to this discussion. **[EU]**
  - The 2024 AGA was entirely focused on innovative finance and financing for development, with a significant participation from the private sector as compared to previous years. The proposed engagements with the financing agenda in 2025 will be carefully developed to ensure dialogue with the private sector throughout. **[Maurizio Navarra]**
- Trade corridors are a contentious topic of emerging interest that could be explored through the GDPRD. **[IFAD]**

## 2) Budget

- The 2025 budget forecast includes regular staff, consultancies, administrative, events and travel costs and is developed on the expectation that all Board Members renew and release fees for 2025. Due to the limited budget, the Secretariat will internalize relevant parts of the 2025 Work Plan implementation, including development of the Strategic Plan, while outsourcing select advisory services to independent experts. **[Maurizio Navarra]**
- The **Board Membership fees** have remained unchanged at €50,000 since 2003, despite inflation-driven increases in staff and other costs. The rising expenses have reduced available funds for external services and activities. Potential solutions include to:
  - 1) Reduce activities. However, the Platform's contributions to the 2025 financing agenda, the development of the Strategic Plan and the Work Plan, entail significant costs.
  - 2) Increase the number of members, which is ideal yet challenging, and not an immediate solution.
  - 3) Raise membership fees. Given that most member organizations adhere to institutional budgetary planning, including multi-year commitments, a fee increase is not proposed for 2025. It may be considered for 2026 or later, with discussions needed on the feasibility of such an adjustment. **[Co-Chairs - Italy and Switzerland]**
- A major concern is the possibility of non-payment of membership fees, which would further constrain finances. However, there is €147,000 in reserves from 2020 (due to reduced expenses during COVID) which could help offset this gap in 2025, should this occur. The Secretariat is also exploring budget scenarios with membership fee increases of 5%, 10%, 20%, which can be considered by the Board to ensure financial stability. **[Maurizio Navarra]**
  - IFAD supports both exploring attracting additional Board Members, as well as a 20% raise in the membership fee, as proposed. **[IFAD]**
  - The proposal to adjust the membership fees is understandable given the impact of inflation over the 22-year period in which the budget has not changed. Internal discussions with Senior Managers in the respective agencies are

- required to take this forward. **[The Netherlands]**
- The proposal is understandable, and agreement is subject to internal discussions. Will there be a formal request issued? **[EU]**
    - The topic will be revisited in the next Board Meeting, allowing Board Members time to explore the topic internally. **[Co-Chair - Switzerland]**
  - This can be explored internally. Which scenario is officially proposed? **[Ireland]**
    - Board Members may discuss their preferred scenario. A 20% increase is favorable, as this would cover core costs and proposed activities, and protect the maneuverability of the GDPRD budget for the longer term. **[Co-Chair - Switzerland]**
  - The need for budget adjustment is understandable. National budgets are currently being reallocated and the outcomes of the upcoming elections may determine priorities. A moderate increase is preferred, noting that 20% appears the maximum that can be advocated for, and timing must be considered carefully as budgets are set in multi-year periods. **[Germany]**

## DECISION POINTS

- Board Members have a 2-week period (by 25 February) to review the 2025 Work Plan, after which it will be considered approved on a no-objections basis.
- The budget for the 2025 Work Plan was approved.
- The Membership fees will be further discussed in the next Board meeting, considering an increase of 20% (€10,000).

## 6. Updates on discussions with Canadian G7 Presidency

### PURPOSE OF SECTION:

*Nikita Eriksen-Hamel, Deputy Director, Agriculture and Food Systems of Global Affairs Canada, provided an update on the priorities and focus areas of the 2025 G7 Presidency.*

### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The priorities of the Canadian G7 Presidency are subject to internal and external influences, including the domestic elections and the progression of United States-Canada relations. The Presidency's top priority is maintaining a strong and collaborative relationship with the U.S., with a focus on foreign security, emerging technologies, and forest fire management.
- The key messages for the G7 Food Systems Working Group (FSWG) are:
  - To propose a paradigm shift from food security to food systems. This is required to tackle complex, interdependent challenges of hunger, malnutrition, gender inequality, and climate change. Within this shift, addressing food crises will remain the principal goal of the G7.
  - To focus on technical objectives and technical discussions in the G7 FSWG.
  - To understand and work within the fact that, given political changes and electoral cycles, many G7 members are not in a strong position to advance new substantial financial commitments or significant policy decisions.
- Canada proposes three broad workstreams:
  - 1) Exploring development impact of ODA investments in agrifood systems. The



increasing scrutiny of development funding invites discussions on the quality, not the quantity, of ODA in agrifood systems. This will include four key tracks on (a) measuring investments in agrifood systems, where there have been parallel discussions with the GDPRD, (b) investigating investment prioritization, (c) designing cost effective and impactful projects, including using big data, AI and machine learning, and (d) measuring, monitoring and communicating results.

- 2) Policy and technical discussions to better integrate nutrition, through a healthy and sustainable diets framework, with development, climate, and health finance.
- 3) Coordinating the G7 response to global events.
- The GDPRD is invited to the next meeting of the G7 FSWG (25 February), which will bring together partners for a stocktaking, and seek synergies across activities. **[Canada]**

### **Discussion and Q&A:**

- Will the Canadian G7 Presidency explore a follow up on the Elmau methodology? **[Italy]**
  - Canada intends to continue work commenced under the Italian G7 Presidency on the Elmau methodology and report. This may include revisions to the report, led by a sub-group to meet in mid-March. **[Canada]**
- The FSWG meeting is a promising opportunity for the GDPRD to engage and to advance donor coordination. Maurizio Navarra will represent the GDPRD at this meeting; other Board members are invited to contact the Secretariat should they wish to attend. **[Co-Chairs - Italy and Switzerland]**
- What will be the focus of the nutrition workstream? **[Italy]**
  - Respecting the N4G Summit process, Canada is taking guidance from France to understand how the G7 can most valuably contribute to this dialogue. **[Canada]**

## **7. AOB and closing**

### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Decision points of the Board meeting included the approval of the 2025 budget, approval of the contributions to the financing agenda in 2025, and the ongoing review of the Work Plan within the 2-week review period.
- Board members are invited to contact the Secretariat to express interest in participating in the G7 FSWG meeting on 25 February 2025.
- Board members are invited to review the 2025 Work Plan, which will be considered approved on a no-objections basis by 25 February.
- Board members are encouraged to pursue internal discussions within their respective agencies regarding the membership fee adjustment prior to the next Board meeting.



# Proposal for contributions to the 2025 financing agenda

## Introduction

2025 is a critical year for global discussions on financing for development. The Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (GDPRD) aims to support its members to engage strategically in key global events, including:

- **Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4)** (30 June-3 July; Seville, Spain);
- **Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit** (27-28 March; Paris, France);
- **UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS+4) Stocktaking Moment** (28-30 July; Addis Ababa, Ethiopia); and
- **2025 UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP 30)** (November; Belém, Brazil).

FfD4 will be particularly significant, reviewing progress on key frameworks such as the Monterrey Consensus, the Doha Declaration, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. This presents an opportunity to strengthen international commitments, align donor and investment approaches, and implement policy frameworks that support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## GDPRD's Role in Financing for Food Systems and Rural Development

Over the past two years, the GDPRD has actively engaged in the financing for food systems discourse. A recent draft report - *"Financing Food Systems Transformation and Rural Revitalization: Opportunities and Challenges"* - was produced as a background paper to inform discussions during the Platform's 2024 Annual General Assembly (AGA). The report outlines key issues, challenges and opportunities in financing the future of food systems and rural development and the implications of this for donors.

Building on this, the GDPRD proposes the following actions to influence the 2025 financing agenda:

**1. White paper.** The Secretariat has already discussed with the Board the proposal to produce a white paper, which would draw on the research and products developed by the Platform over the last years. Activities would include:

- Develop a comprehensive white paper synthesizing research and recommendations from previous GDPRD reports and discussions.



- Expand on critical themes such as shifting financing narratives, increasing risk tolerance, expanding innovative financing mechanisms, enhancing coordination, addressing structural constraints, supporting policy reforms, and strengthening data transparency.
- Incorporate emerging trends, including digitalization, artificial intelligence, and value-for-money strategies, as requested by the Board and the Platform Senior Managers.

While the white paper will be developed as an informal contribution to the FfD4 conference by Platform members, its findings will also support Board Members and may serve as a key reference for donors throughout the year, including ahead of global financing events such as the **N4G Summit**, the **UNFSS+4** and the **UNFCCC COP 30**.

**2. High-level working group.** To guide the production of the white paper, the Platform also proposes to establish a high-level working group comprised of some Board members and relevant external partners (e.g., high-level representatives from the World Bank, FAO, CGIAR, among others). Members of the group will provide sectoral expertise and synthesize inputs from various sources and interlocutors.

**3. High-level convening ahead of FfD4.** To accompany the white paper, the Platform also proposes to organize a high-level strategic convening alongside the FfD4 (in June 2025), to bring together members, partners, and experts to identify and debate actionable steps that donors can take to best respond to reforms in the international financial architecture for development.

**4. Briefing note for N4G Summit.** Additionally, the insights from the preliminary findings of the high-level working group will be developed into a concise (2-3 page) brief that can guide Platform Members and inform their timely inputs to the discussions of the N4G Summit.

**5. 2025 Annual General Assembly.** Drawing on the implications shared in the white paper, the GDPRD will support the donor community in following up key event discussions during the 2025 Annual General Assembly (AGA), to outline how donors can take forward the financing agenda in an effective and catalytic manner in the lead up to 2030 and beyond. Building on the 2024 AGA, which explored the catalytic role of innovative financing for food systems and rural transformation, the proposed 2025 AGA will shift the discussion from exploration to action.

The event would provide a forum for donors, development agencies, multilateral institutions and private sector actors to reflect on the outcomes of key global events in 2025, and to work in a coordinated manner to identify and operationalize suitable practices to leverage the new financing agenda.

## Proposed deliverables

- **White Paper** on financing for food systems and rural transformation.
- Short **briefing note** for the N4G Summit.
- Additional **briefing notes** as required.
- Formation of a **high-level working group**.
- Organization of a **high-level convening session** in tandem with the FfD4 Conference.
- Financing-focused **2025 Annual General Assembly (AGA)**.



## Proposed timeline

	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>White Paper</b>											
Approve White Paper concept											
Conduct research											
First draft											
Publication											
<b>N4G briefing note</b>											
Approve outline											
Conduct research											
First draft											
Publication											
<b>High-level convening</b>											
Approve convening session concept											
Set date and venue; share invitations											
Host high-level convening											
<b>2025 AGA</b>											
Define 2025 theme											
Prepare background inputs											
Prepare for and host 2025 AGA								TBD			
<b>High-level working group</b>											
Establish WG membership											
Provide input to N4G											
Provide guidance for White Paper											
Guide and support hosting of high-level convening											
Provide expertise for 2025 AGA											
Input to key processes (e.g. UNFSS +4, COP 30) as relevant											



Global Donor  
Platform for  
Rural Development

# Strategic Plan 2026-2031

**BOARD MEETING**

*11 February 2025*

# Scope and breadth

- Review the **vision** and **mission** of the Platform
- Identify **thematic focus areas** for the next 5 years
- **Governance** and **funding** structure
- **Membership** modalities
- **Operational** principles



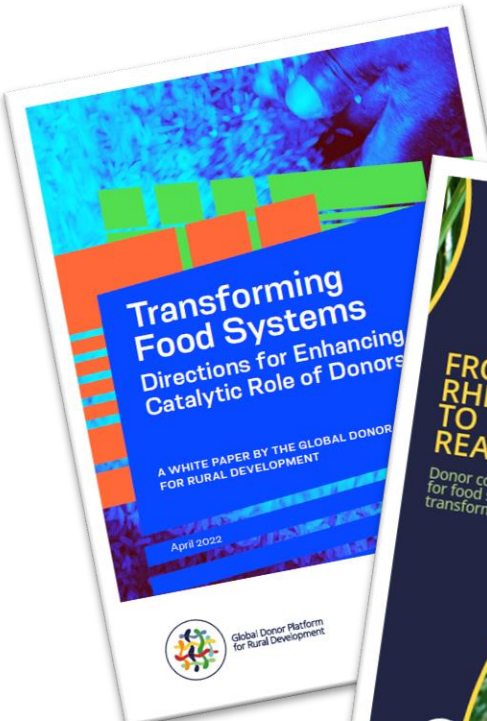
# Review of the last 5 years

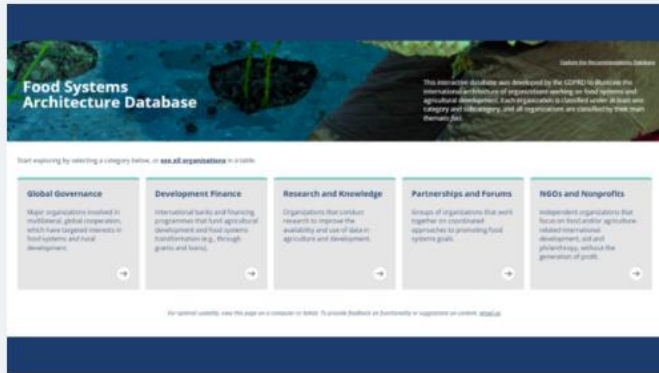
## Key Achievements:

- Strengthened thematic focus
- More **efficient resource use** despite reduced staffing
- Greater alignment with **member priorities**

## Lessons Learned:

- Need for **more targeted** activities with measurable outcomes
- **Efficiency matters**, but results must be the priority
- Stronger donor coordination requires **clear value proposition**





## Food Systems Architecture Database

This interactive database facilitates a better understanding of the international architecture of organizations and key initiatives working on food systems and agricultural development. The level of discovery is enhanced by classifying each organization or initiative under at least one category and subcategory, and all organizations by their primary thematic areas.

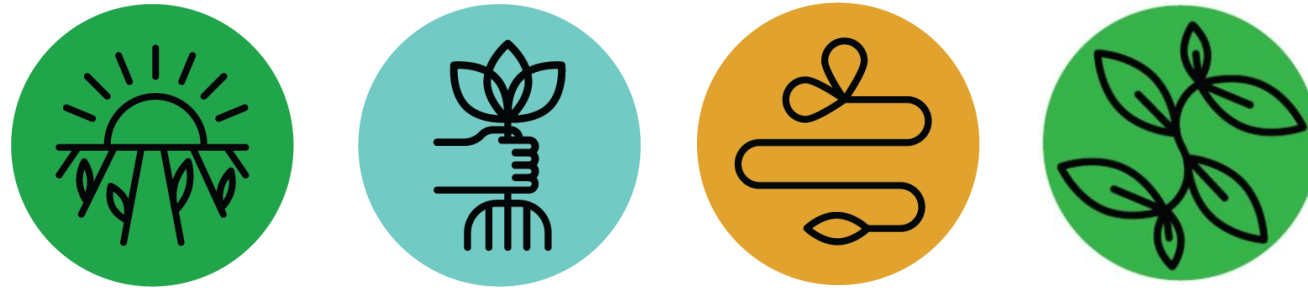
[USE THE DATABASE](#)



## Food Systems Recommendations Database

Explore key international reports and use their policy recommendations in your work. The GDFPRD created this database to collate and summarize recommendations from key international reports on food systems and rural development. Similar recommendations are grouped together, and all recommendations are allocated to thematic areas like gender, climate, and resilience.

[USE THE DATABASE](#)



## **Thematic Working Groups**

Land Governance, Rural Youth Employment,  
SDG2 Roadmap, Sustainable/Blended Finance



# Feedback from our Sr Managers (Oct 24)

New models of ODA & global financial architecture reform

Blended/innovative finance

Ecosystems for transformation

Framework for private sector engagement

Digitalization and AI

Donor data and reporting

Responsible data governance

Minimizing rural-urban divide

Youth and gender as cross-cutting issues

Gender-sensitive programming

Gender equality and women's empowerment

Nutrition

Scaled-up investment

2025 Nutrition for Growth Summit

# Proposals for 2026-2031

## Emerging Challenges & Opportunities:

1. **New ODA Models** → Adapting to shifting financing landscapes
2. **Geo-Politics & Security** → Addressing global risks in food systems
3. **Migration & Rural-Urban Divide** → Ensuring inclusivity in development
4. **Climate-Food-Energy Nexus** → Strengthening resilience strategies
5. **Planetary Boundaries & Sustainability** → Integrating climate action

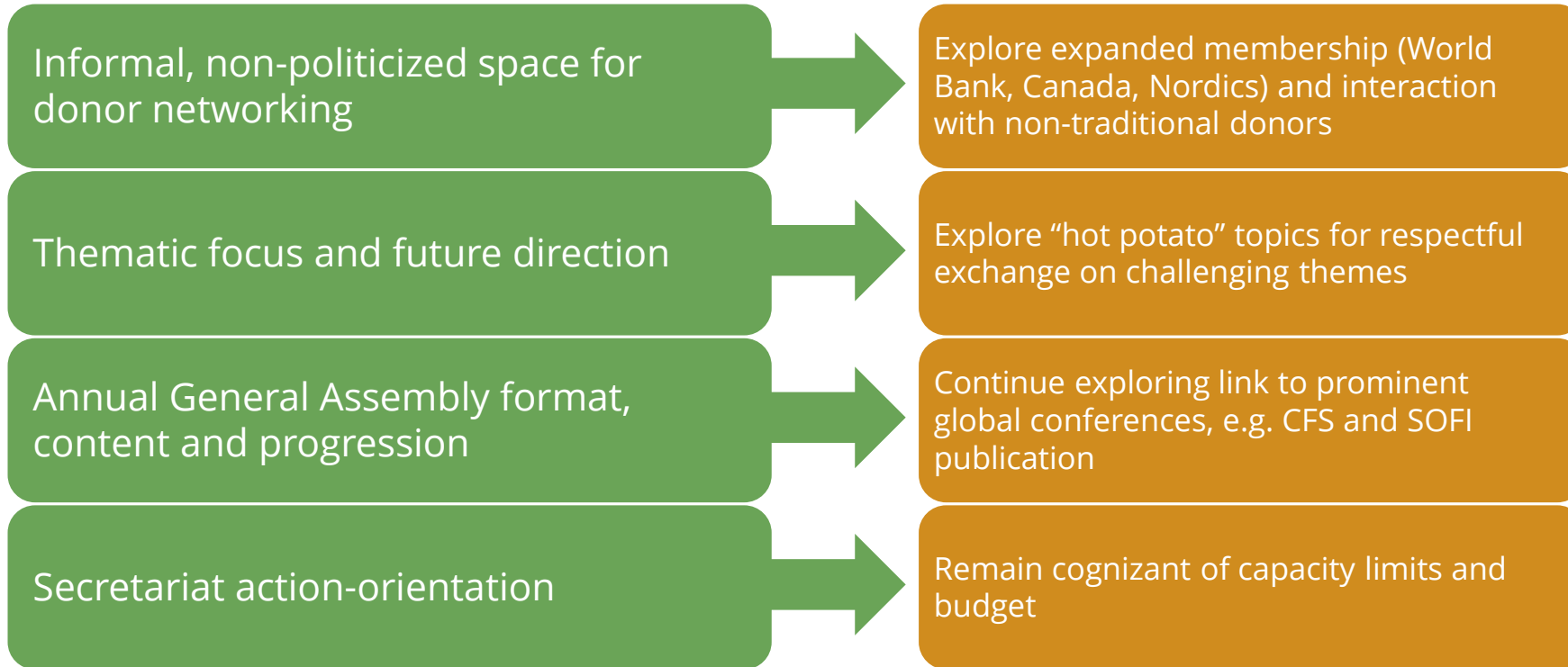


# A continued focus on innovation

## Priority focus areas

- 1. AI & Digitalization** → Smarter donor coordination & data-driven decisions
- 2. Innovative Finance & Blended Models** → Mobilizing private capital for development
- 3. Climate-Resilient Agriculture** → Scalable solutions for food security

# Some inspiration for the Platform



# Next steps and process





Global Donor  
Platform for  
Rural Development

# Thank you

[www.donorplatform.org](http://www.donorplatform.org)



Global Donor  
Platform for  
Rural Development

# **GDPRD COMMUNICATIONS**

## **2024 review & 2025 outlook**

Board Meeting  
11 February 2025

# Catalysing communications



**2021-2023**

Modernize communications approach, content and brand

Establish GDPRD as collective thought leader with results-driven agenda

Increase audience and engagement

**2024**

Target outreach and products to global priorities and themes

Increase strategic influencing through social media

Horizon scan of audience needs and recalibrate approach

Strengthen advocacy and knowledge management tools

**2025**

Strengthen coordination between members and partners through knowledge exchange and advocacy tools

Enhance visibility and engagement through web and social media channels

Develop value-add knowledge products relevant to international events



# Flagship products

**TECHNICAL NOTE**

Unleashing the catalytic power of donor financing TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 2

Oshani Perera, Carin Smaller, Kamal El Harty and Lysiane Lefebvre

Unleashing the catalytic power of donor financing TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 2

Oshani Perera, Carin Smaller, Kamal El Harty and Lysiane Lefebvre

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

**2023 Annual General Assembly**

20 years of rural development and aid effectiveness: Where are we now and where are we going?

26-27 October 2023  
IFAD HQ IN ROME, ITALY AND VIRTUALLY

20 YEARS BRINGING DONORS TOGETHER

**2024 Annual General Assembly**

BACKGROUND PAPER

**Financing Food Systems Transformation and Rural Revitalization: Opportunities and Challenges**

*DRAFT:* This is a draft document prepared for the GDPRD Annual General Assembly (AGA). Following the AGA, it will be updated and reviewed before final publication. The paper is to stimulate discussion during the AGA, its contents do not necessarily reflect the positions or view of GDPRD members.

Authors: Jim Woodhill, Mandakini D. Surie and Kristal Jones  
18 November 2024



**ANNUAL REPORT 2023**  
Catalysing change and harmonizing impact: 20 years of donor coordination

2023 was a milestone year for the GDPRD as we celebrated our 20th anniversary.



**Tristan Armstrong**  
Former GDPRD Co-Chair, 2021-2023, Australia

“20 years was that moment to reflect and ask what’s next, how the world has changed, and whether our strategies are fit for purpose and are addressing key issues.”

[Read more](#)



**Conrad Rein**  
Former GDPRD Co-Chair, 2020-2023, European Commission

“I hope GDPRD members will become even more involved and see the Donor Platform as an important tool for coordination, for better impact on the ground and for improving the livelihoods of millions of people.”

[Read more](#)



**Federica de Gaetano**  
Current GDPRD Co-Chair, Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)

“I have been following the GDPRD since the beginning of my career in food security. Knowledge sharing and networking among members and stakeholders are very useful for my daily work in a donor agency and keep me up-to-date on current issues.”

[Read more](#)

## 2024 MILESTONE: GOING PAPERLESS



The aid and development landscape has changed significantly over the past two decades.



GDPRD milestones

# Events



28 March 2024  
**Donors as investment catalysts Webinar**

*Co-organizers: SAFIN, Marketlinks and USAID*



28 March 2024  
**Agro-food Jobs for Youth in Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia Webinar**

*Thematic Working Group on Rural Youth Employment*



26 June 2024  
**Decoding the Fundamentals of Development Finance Webinar**



26 September 2024  
**Financing Food and Rural Development Webinar**

*Co-organizer: Shamba Centre for Food & Climate*



4 November 2024  
**Jobs for Youth in the Agrifood Sector: Leveraging Micro and Small Enterprises Webinar**

*Thematic Working Group on Rural Youth Employment*



14-15 October 2024  
**HARDs Meeting**



16 October 2024  
**Senior Managers Meeting**



26-27 November 2024  
**Annual General Assembly**



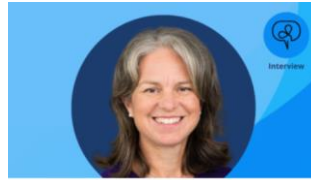
# Interviews, podcasts and media



8 January 2025  
**The importance of mainstreaming land in development targets**



29 January 2025  
**Meet Genna Tesdall, new Co-Chair of GDFPRD's Thematic Working Group on Rural Youth Employment**



20 May 2024  
**Feeding the future: Policy pathways to resilient food systems**



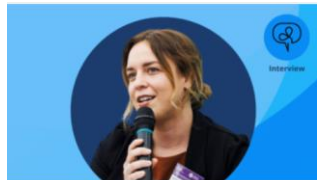
3 July 2024  
**Blended finance: Why now is the time to double down**



8 February 2024  
**Interview Series on Donor Coordination: Juan Echanove, CARE International**



24 January 2025  
**Moving Forward Together: Interview with new member UNDP**



18 January 2024  
**Innovative and proven approaches to amplifying donor funding for agricultural development**



25 October 2024  
**Academia's role in innovating food systems finance**



30 January 2025  
**Sharing Donor Experiences for SDG2: Interview with new member GAFSP**

**Devex Global Voices 2024**

**“Bold decisions are paramount to making agrifood development finance more affordable and accessible.”**



**Federica de Gaetano**  
Food Security Project Officer  
Italian Agency for Development Cooperation



**Bruce Campbell**  
Senior Policy Advisor, Food Systems  
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation



**Podcast**

**FARMS. FOOD. FUTURE.**

**IFAD**  
International Fund for Agricultural Development

**Devex Global Voice 2024**

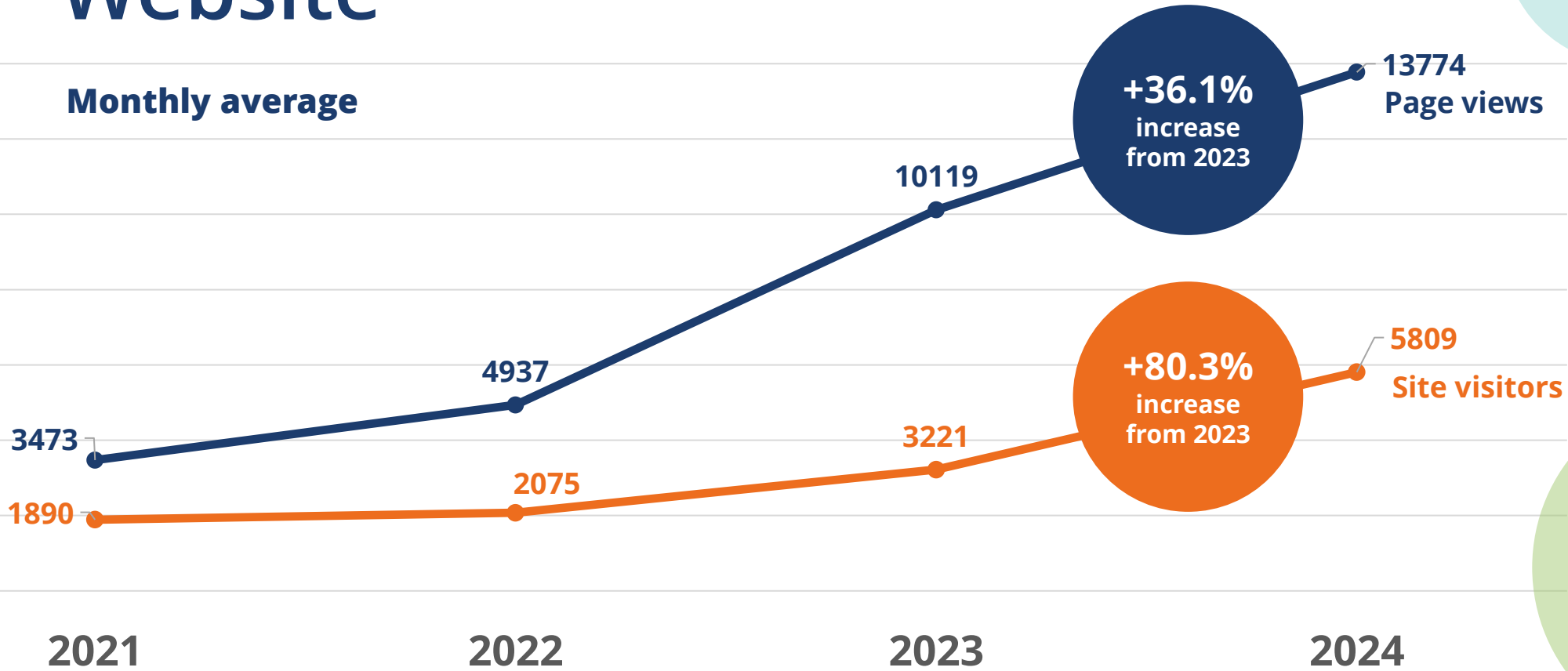
**19 expert and new member interviews**

**10 podcasts**

# DIGITAL REACH AND ENGAGEMENT

## Website

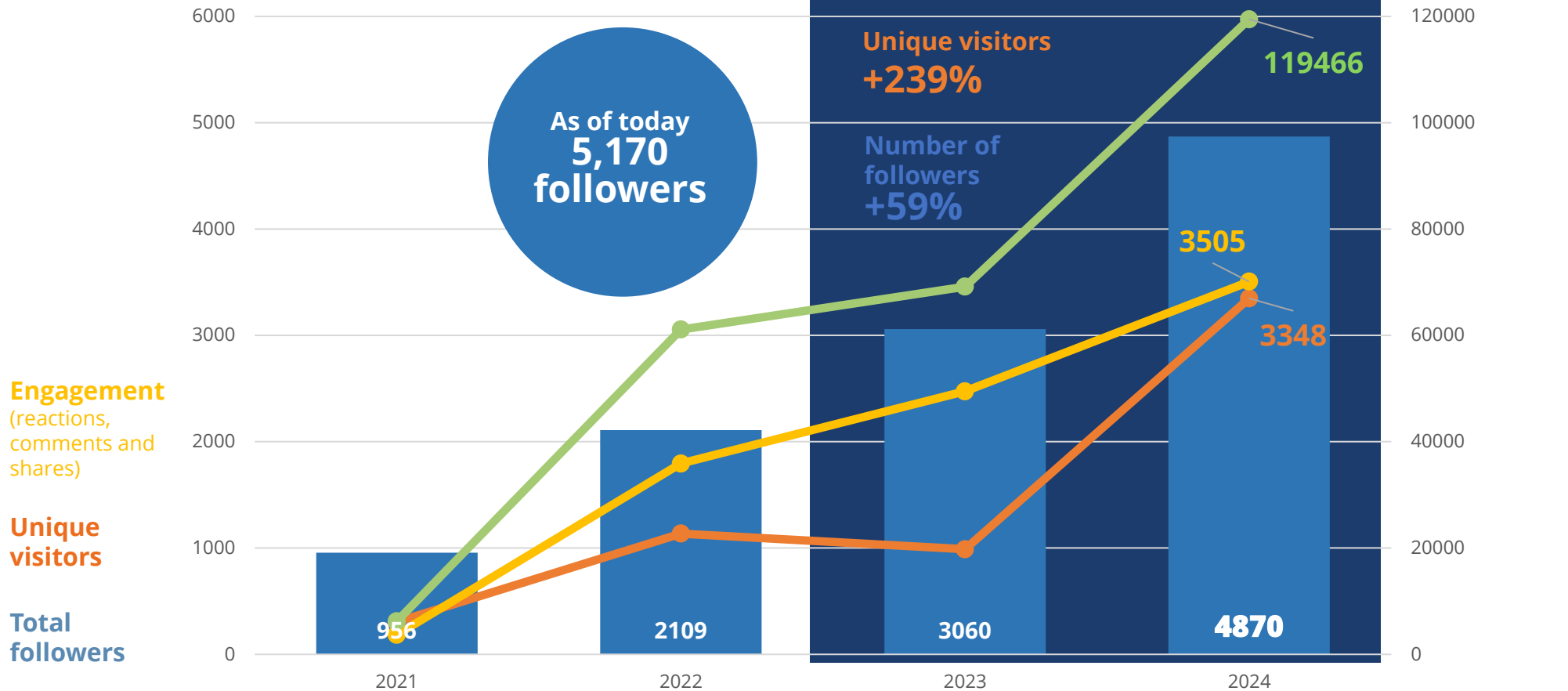
Monthly average



**69,687**  
Total site visits 2024

**165,290**  
Total page views 2024

**2,774 hours or 166,444 mins**  
Spent on website



### Our LinkedIn followers

#### Seniority:

**50% hold senior positions** including Directors, VPs, Managers and Partners

**30% hold junior positions**

#### Industry:

**35%** from international trade and development, non-profit organizations, international affairs and government, emergency aid


**10%** from research and academia

**5%** from civic and social organizations

**3%** from farming

**6%** from private sector

# Instagram

donorplatform 

Launched in **June 2023**

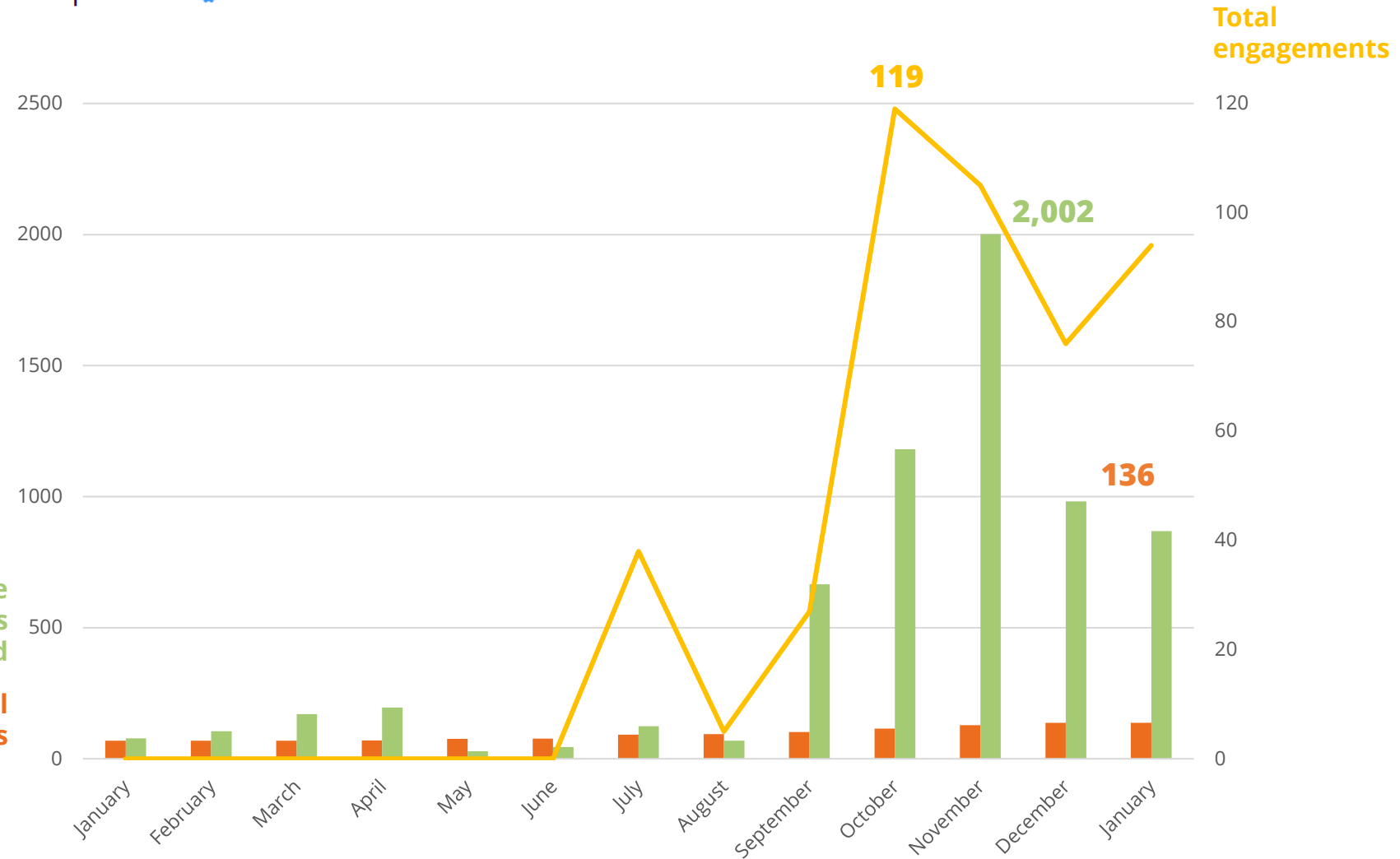
Verified badge account obtained from Meta in **August 2023**

**Followers grew 103% from 69 (Feb 2024) to 140 (Feb 2025)**



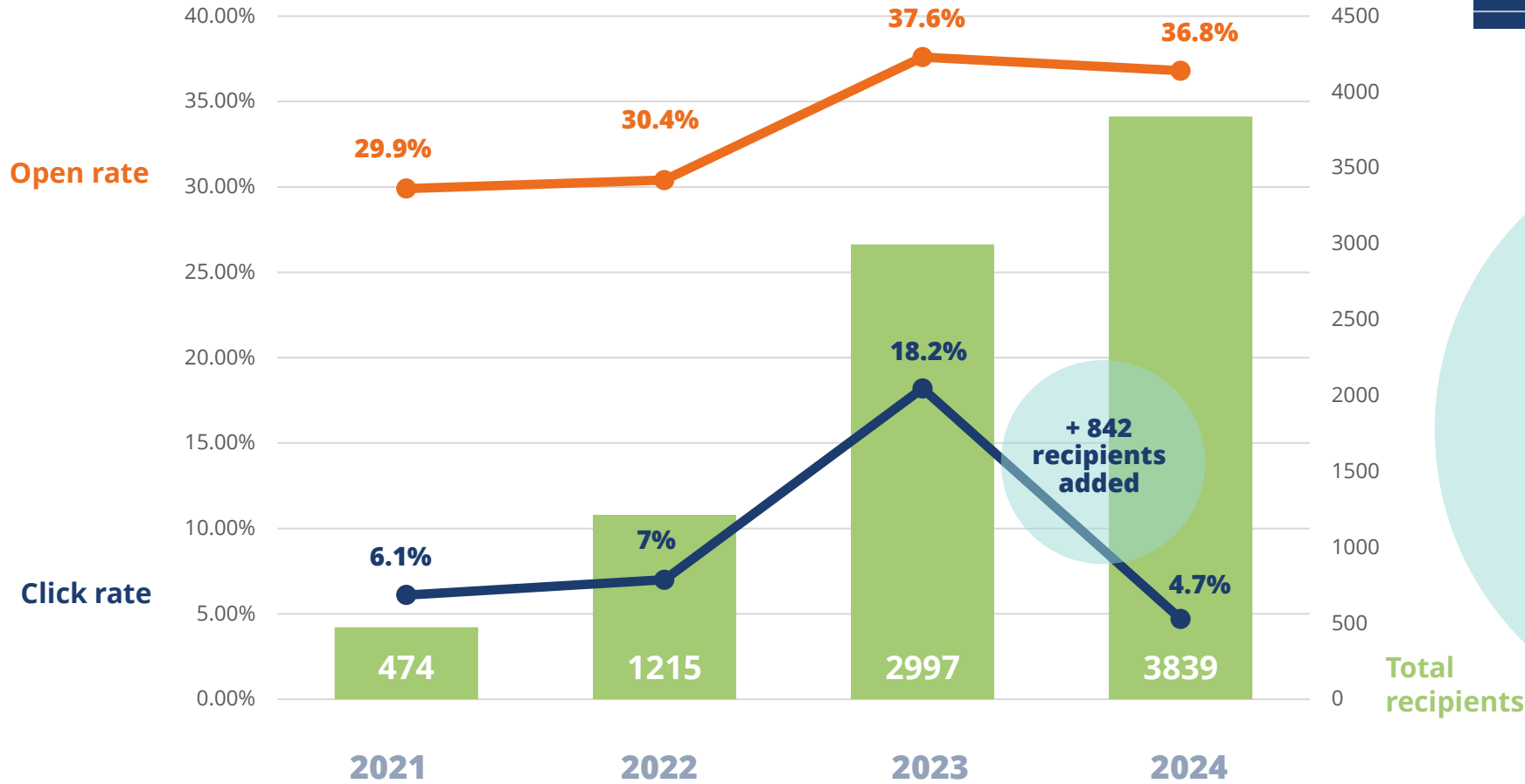
Unique accounts reached

Total followers





# Newsletter



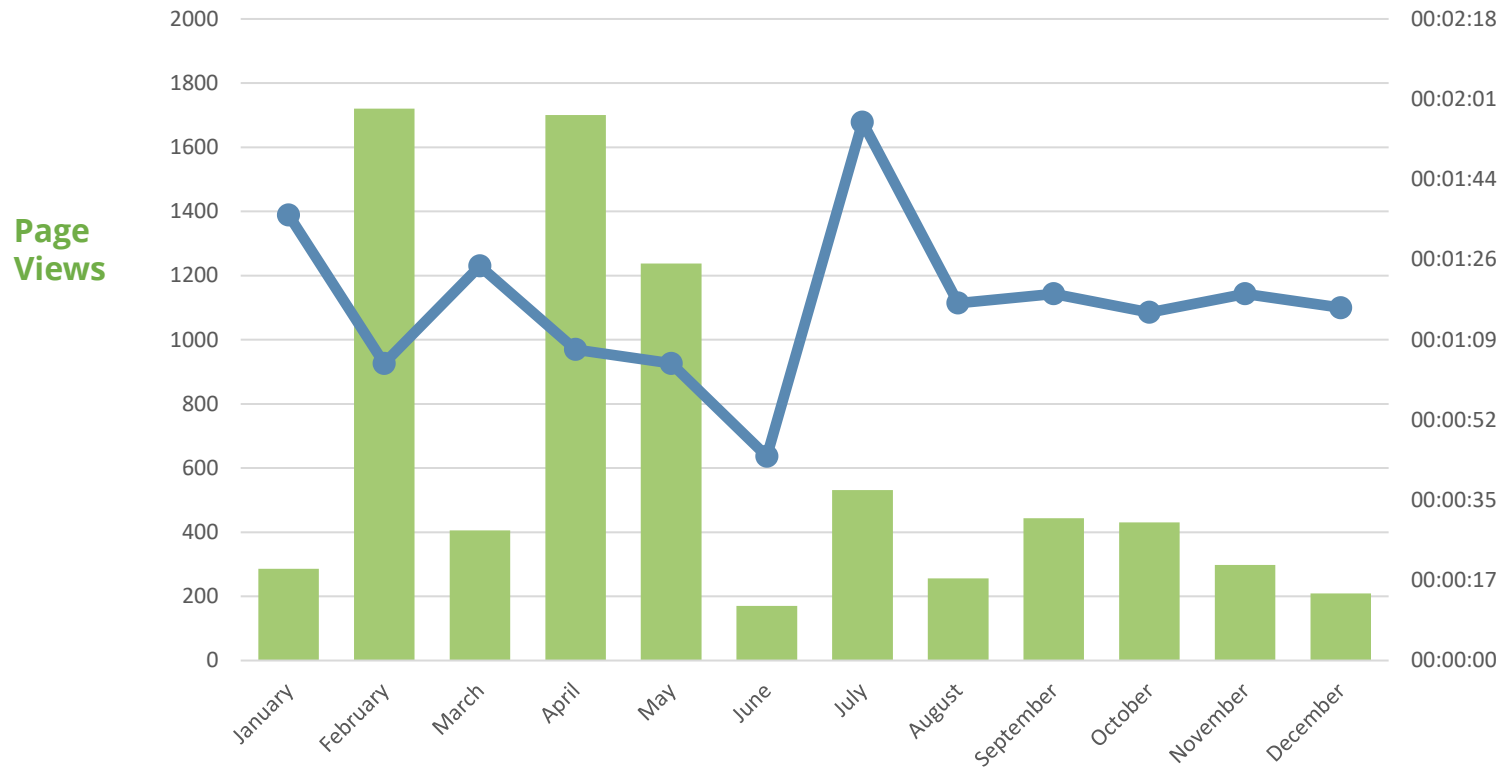
**Spotlight on Winter 2024 edition**

**Open rate 46.9%**      **Click rate 8.8%**

**Review of mailing list → growth in engagement**

# Food Systems Recommendations Database

Month average in 2024

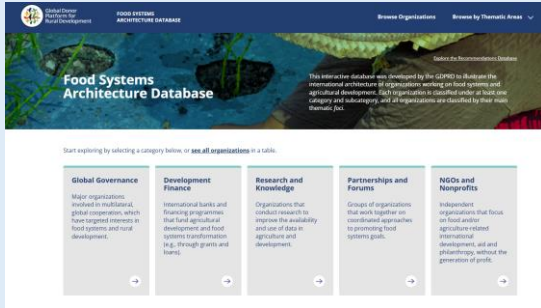


## As of today, the database includes:

- 59 reports
- 2109 recommendations
- 167 clustered recommendations
- 31 themes

From 2023, average monthly page views increased by **185%**



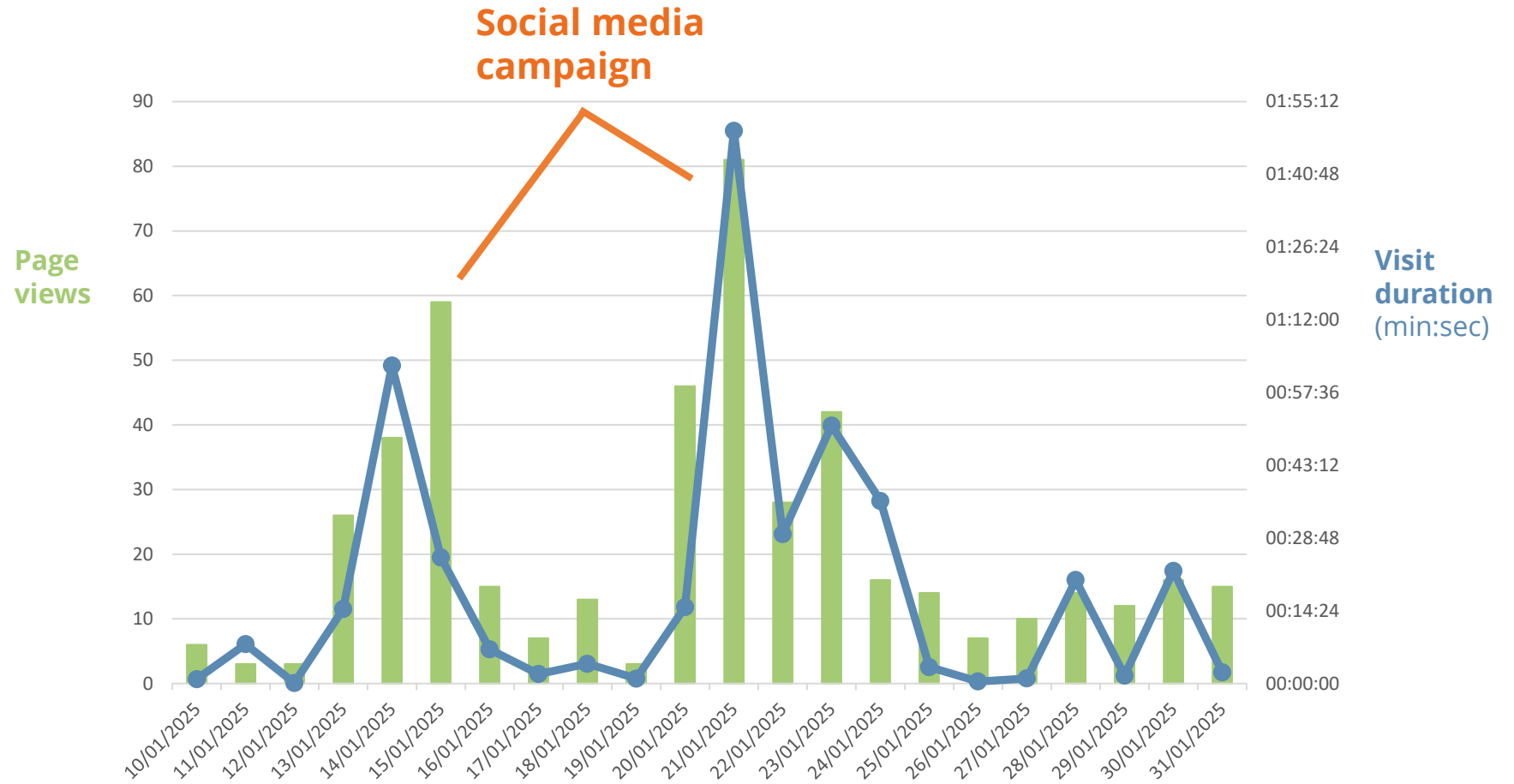


## As of today, the database includes:

- 148 organizations
- 5 organization types
- 16 organization sub-types
- 10 thematic areas

**49**  
new organizations  
added in  
December 2024

# New Food Systems Architecture Database



# Communications with a purpose

## 2025 WORKPLAN



SDG2 Road Map



Development Finance



Donor Coordination



Land Governance



Data



Podcasts



Blogs



Events



Publications



Rural Youth Employment



Interviews



Sustainable and Blended Finance

# Communications with a purpose

## 2025 WORKPLAN



### Greater visibility of Platform's and members' activities, workstreams and events

Website

Social media

Publications, newsletters, op-ed articles

Leveraging partnerships and media platforms

### Expanded outreach and influencing on social media

Interviews and podcasts

AGA, thematic working groups convenings

Expert partner(s)

Mini campaigns

### Strengthened knowledge sharing and advocacy tools

New membership web space for profiles and coordination opportunities

Value-add knowledge products relevant to international events

Food Systems Databases and thematic group knowledge hubs

Improved and updated advocacy tools

Expanded partnerships with communication contacts across membership, academia, research and the broader donor community

# Advocacy



Presenting the  
**Global Donor Platform  
for Rural Development**

January 2025

# Member profiles and web space



Global Donor Platform for Rural Development

## GDPRD Website Member Profiles

Dear Members,

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this short form.

The website of the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (GDPRD) is adding a new feature: [Member Profile pages](#). These pages will provide **up-to-date, relevant profiles of our members** to help donors learn more about each another.

Each member will be asked to provide information about their organization, including their thematic priorities within food systems and rural development, geographical foci, and other useful information. This will make it easier for others in the donor community to identify potential collaborations and partnerships.

We kindly ask that you provide the information listed below, to provide initial information for a personalized Member Profile on the Donor Platform [website](#).

The form is divided into two sections - Organizational Information and Engagement with the GDPRD - and **should take approximately 10-30 minutes to complete**.

On behalf of the Donor Platform Secretariat, thank you in advance for your valuable support.

[mmztang@gmail.com](mailto:mmztang@gmail.com) [Switch account](#)



The name, email, and photo associated with your Google account will be recorded when you upload files and submit this form

\* Indicates required question

### Section 1: Organizational Information

The following questions concern your organization to ensure we have the most up-to-date information and priorities.



MEMBER

## Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

The [Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation \(SDC\)](#) is the agency for international cooperation of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA). The SDC is responsible for the overall coordination with other federal authorities of development cooperation and cooperation with Eastern Europe as well as for humanitarian aid delivered by the Swiss Confederation.

Swiss international cooperation, which is an integral part of the Federal Council's foreign policy, aims to alleviate need and poverty around the world, to foster respect for human rights, to promote democracy and to conserve the environment. It fosters economic self-reliance and state autonomy, contributes to the improvement of production conditions, helps address environmental problems, and ensures better access to education and basic healthcare services.

### New policies and knowledge to share:

#### Agroecology Promotion Programme (APP) (LINK?)

Switzerland has been one of the front-runners positioning agroecology globally to support food systems transformation, notably following the aftermath of the UN Food Systems Summit in September 2021. This Agroecology Promotion Programme strengthens this momentum, by supporting the capacitation of, dissemination and implementation by leveraging actors to further embed agroecology within the civil society, policies and markets, globally, in Sub-Saharan Africa and South-East Asia.

### Related Contents



Interview  
**KEEPING THE HUMANITARIAN-DEVELOPMENT-PEACE NEXUS AT CENTRE STAGE**

### Related Events



07 february 2025  
@ 09:00 - 17:00

UNESCO World Food Systems Chair Annual Symposium:  
**African Food Systems**

The UNESCO Chair on World Food Systems Annual Symposium this year focuses on African food systems — their innovation, variety...



07 february 2025  
@ 09:00 - 17:00

UNESCO World Food Systems Chair Annual Symposium:  
**African Food Systems**

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Global Donor  
Platform for  
Rural Development

# Thank you

[www.donorplatform.org](http://www.donorplatform.org)

**GDPRD Food Systems Databases**

<https://www.donorplatform.org/resources/databases/>

# 2025 Work Plan

## Vision

Donors effectively catalyse change.

## Mission

Brokering donor collaboration for impact.

## Functions of the Donor Platform

- **Strategic Influencing:** Shaping global donor policies and programmes.
- **Networking and Convening for shared learning:** Connecting stakeholders for collaboration and shared learning.
- **Knowledge Sharing:** Curating and disseminating insights and innovative donor policies, strategies and practices. Managing databases and information bases to offer knowledge tools for the donor community.

## Outcome Areas and Activities

### 1. Strategic Influencing Capability Strengthened

---

**Outcome:** Donor thinking, policies, and programming are shaped by evidence-based insights and innovative approaches.

#### Outputs and Activities:

##### 1.1. Focus on New Models of ODA and Financial Architecture Reform:

- Organize a flagship event and develop a white paper on financing for food systems.
- Coordinate with G7 and G20 processes and link to the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4).
- Deliver reports and organize donor roundtables highlighting value-for-money strategies and investment in fragile contexts.

**Indicators:** 2 reports, 4 donor roundtables, 1 high-level convening.

##### 1.2. Integration of Digitalization and AI in Food Systems:

- Host webinars and dialogues on AI and digitalization at both political and technical level.
- Develop a donor guidance document on leveraging AI for agricultural transformation and responsible data use.

**Indicators:** 3 webinars, 1 guidance document.

### 1.3. Enhancing the Gender-Transformative Agenda:

- Incorporate gender into all programming and thematic workstreams.
- Develop a dedicated session in the Annual General Assembly (AGA) focusing on gender-sensitive approaches and best practices.

**Indicators:** Gender-focused outputs in all Platform reports, 1 dedicated AGA session.

## 2. Enhanced Responsiveness to Member Needs

---

**Outcome:** The Platform’s work is adaptive and aligned with the priorities of its members.

### Outputs and Activities:

#### 2.1. Facilitate Member Engagement and Input:

- Conduct consultations to identify member priorities for the 2026-2031 Strategic Plan.
- Organize 2025 Annual General Assembly (AGA).
- Host the 2025 Senior Managers Meeting.
- Publish a quarterly newsletter.

**Indicators:** 1 Strategic Plan, 1 AGA, 1 Senior Managers Meeting, 4 newsletters.

#### 2.2. Support for Thematic Working Groups (TWGs):

- Convene TWGs on Sustainable Finance, SDG2 Roadmap, Rural Youth Employment, Land Governance.
- Provide platforms for TWG presentations at Board meetings.

**Indicators:** At least 3 meetings per TWG, 1 TWG presentation at Board, dedicated TWG sessions at AGA.

2.3. Two online events on “contentious topic” e.g. spring/autumn.

## 3. Improved Communications, Outreach, and Knowledge Sharing

---

**Outcome:** Members and stakeholders are better engaged and informed. Outreach covers wider target audience.

### Outputs and Activities:



### 3.1. Enhance Visibility Through Digital Channels:

- Update the Platform website for better usability and searchability.
- Implement mini campaigns around major events and flagship publications.
- Establish member profile pages.

**Indicators:** 10% increase in web traffic, 2 mini-campaigns, 1 new website feature for member profile pages.

### 3.2. Expand Social Media Engagement:

- Develop content strategies to amplify outreach on LinkedIn, Instagram and X.
- Identify donor champions as social media advocates.
- Strengthen relationships with member and partner communications counterparts with an expanded social media advocacy toolkit.

**Indicators:** 15% increase in social media followers, 1 social media advocate, 10 new communications relationships, 1 social media advocacy kit

### 3.3. Develop and Share Knowledge Products:

- Publish flagship reports using enhanced digital capabilities.
- Conduct Board, member, and partner interview series including contributions to the IFAD Podcast.
- Maintain and improve the Food Systems Recommendations Database.
- Maintain and improve the Food Systems Architecture Database.

**Indicators:** 3 digital flagship publications including 1 Annual Report, monthly database updates, 15 interviews published on the website, 6 podcast submissions.

## 4. Membership Base Expansion

---

**Outcome:** Increased resources and representation for greater impact.

### Outputs and Activities:

#### 4.1. Strengthen Advocacy:

- Update the Platform's advocacy toolkit and value proposition materials.
- Conduct outreach to prospective members, including non-traditional donors.

**Indicators:** 1 updated toolkit, 1 new potential member reached.

## 5. Delivery Capacity Secured and Improved

---

**Outcome:** The Secretariat operates effectively to support the Platform's goals.

### Outputs and Activities:

### 5.1. Sustain Secretariat Staffing and Resources:

- Maintain funding for key Secretariat positions.
- Recruit additional consultants and interns as needed.

**Indicators:** 3 core staff positions funded, 1 senior consultant, 2 junior consultants.

### 5.2. Implement a Results-Based Management Approach:

- Develop and monitor annual work plans and TWG-specific plans.

**Indicators:** 1 results-based work plan, 4 TWG plans.

---

### 2025 Calendar of Key Activities (to be completed)

- **January:** Virtual event on the 2025 Rural Development Report (RDR).
- **February:** Consultation on member priorities for Strategic Plan; Board meeting and coordination with IFAD Governing Council.
- **March:** Contributions to Nutrition for Growth Summit, Catalytic Capital Framework testing results published.
- **April:** Potential in-person group meeting and review of Terms of Reference of Sustainable/Blended Finance TWG.
- **May:** GDWGL participation in the World Bank Land Conference.
- **June/July:** Engagement in FfD4 and G7 Leaders' Summit, publication of the Annual Report, informal Board meeting.
- **Q3:** Senior Managers Meeting, AGA (tbc), potential in-person meetings of TWGs, contributions to the CFS and UNFSS+4 (tbc), high-level convening.
- **Q4:** Board meeting with final approval of Strategic Plan 2026-2030
- **Ongoing:** Webinars, TWG meetings, knowledge product development.



## Global Donor Platform for Rural Development

# 2025 Budget Forecast

This 2025 provisional budget forecast was drafted under the assumption that contributions from all Board members will be received by 31 December 2025.

The total forecast includes all core expenses by the Platform Secretariat but does not include special funds allocated by Platform members in support of thematic working groups or thematic areas.

ID	Description	Amount
<b>1</b>	<b>Staff costs*</b>	
1.1	Coordinator	€ 188 160
1.2	Communication officer	€ 132 480
1.3	Admin Assistant	€ 59 520
<b>2</b>	<b>Consultancies</b>	
2.1	Consultants, Secretariat and TWGs support	€ 92 554
2.2	Consultant, Sr advisory services (Finance agenda, AGA, Strategic Plan)	€ 38 908
<b>3</b>	<b>Admin costs</b>	
3.1	Communications (Publications, website management, e-newsletters, social media)	€ 19 000
3.2	IT/Admin (software licenses, domain and website hosting fees)	€ 7 000
<b>4</b>	<b>Events costs</b>	
4.1	Events	€ 1 500
4.2	AGA 2025	€ 10 000
<b>5</b>	<b>Travel</b>	
5.1	Staff Travel	€ 2 500
<b>Total 2025 forecast</b>		<b>€ 551 622</b>

\*Based on IFAD standard staff costs as of January 2025.