

# PROMOTING YOUTH PARTICIPATION ACROSS FOOD SYSTEMS





**An international  
movement  
by and for young  
agricultural  
professionals, to  
express our ideas and  
realize our full  
potential.**

# YPARD

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS IN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT



# 32,000+

Members Community

● Togo	South Africa	● Bangladesh	Uzbekistan	● Hungary	Armenia
Ivory Coast	Ethiopia	Vietnam	Cambodia	Kosovo	Azerbaijan
Rwanda	Senegal	China	Solomon Islands	Denmark	Italy
Kenya	Guinea	Indonesia	Mongolia	Georgia	Netherlands
Malawi	Sierra Leone	India		Turkey	Switzerland
Cameroon	Tanzania	Nepal		Bosnia and Herzegovina	France
Zimbabwe	Benin	Iran	● Canada	Romania	Spain
Mali	Uganda	Kyrgyzstan	Trinidad and Tobago	Sweden	Moldova
Zambia	Madagascar	Pakistan	Brazil	Germany	Serbia
Ghana	Morocco	Philippines	Colombia	Albania	Croatia
Nigeria	DRC	Sri Lanka	Jamaica	Portugal	Russia
Burundi	Egypt	Lebanon	Peru	Austria	Ukraine
South Africa	Burkina Faso	Myanmar			



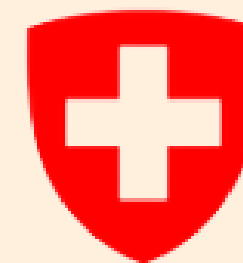
# Institutional Arrangements



## HOSTED BY:



## FUNDED BY:



Swiss Agency for  
Development &  
Cooperation (SDC)

# Thematic Focuses 2023-26



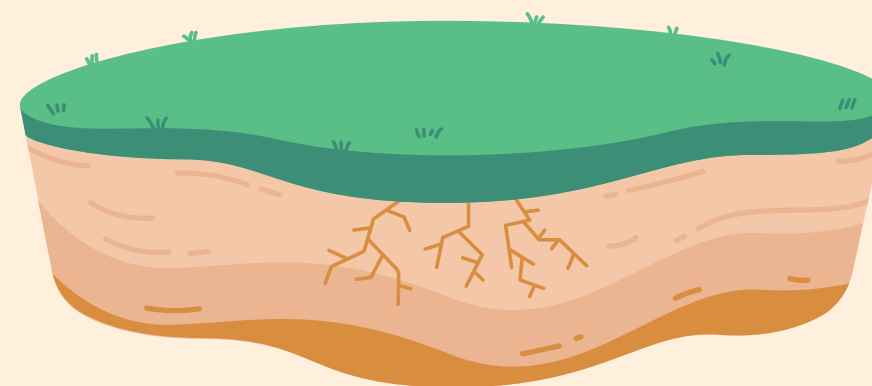
**Green Jobs, Decent  
Livelihoods,  
and leadership**



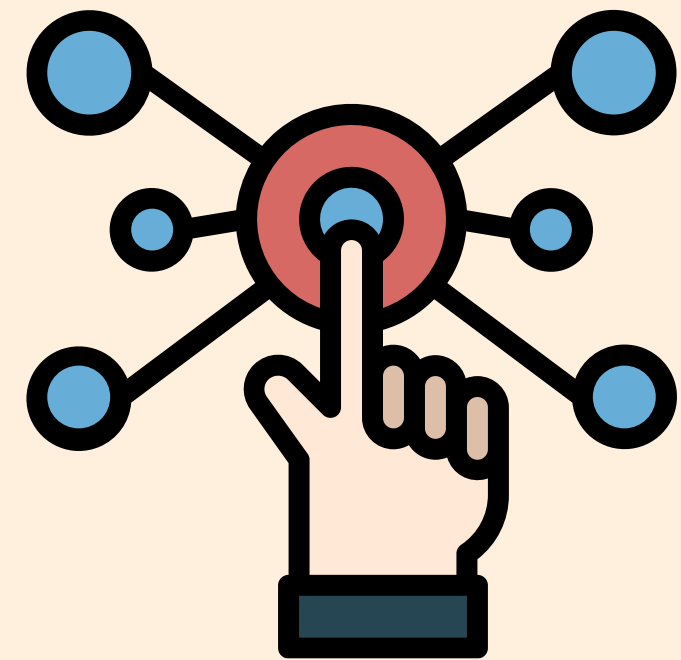
**Agroecology**



**Climate  
mitigation,  
adaptation, and  
biodiversity**



**Land and Resource  
Access and Rights**

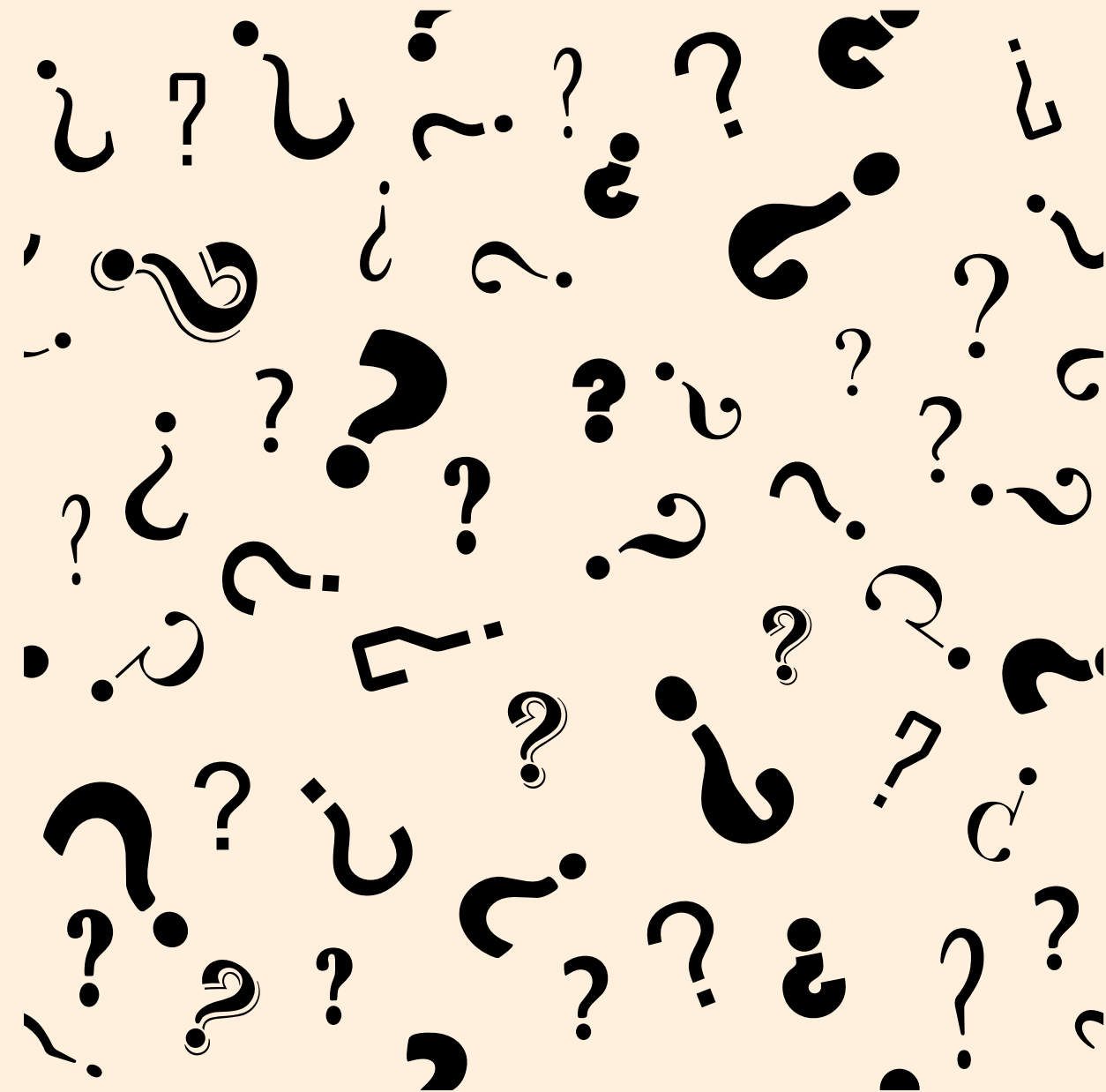


**Fair  
Digitalization**

# Who are YPAR Members?



# Who are youth?



## DEFINING “YOUTH”

For legal and administrative purposes, United Nations (UN) agencies, national governments and their legal systems define the life stages of childhood, youth and adulthood by chronological age. The UN, for example, defines “childhood” as ages 0–17 and “youth” as ages 15–24 (thus, overlapping with “childhood” for three years during ages of 15–17) (UN, undated).

There are, however, substantial differences between these global definitions and the ages at which “youth” is defined to begin and end in different countries’ national youth laws and policies (Arulingam *et al.*, 2019). For example, youth status begins legally at 12 years old in Mexico, but at 18 in Bolivia; it ends at 19 in the United Kingdom but at 35 in Tanzania and 40 in Malaysia (Youth Policy Labs, undated). While fully recognizing the importance of chronological age in defining “youth”, for analytical and policy purposes and for purposes of this report, relationality is the main defining feature of the concept of “youth”.

Drawing on key ideas in generation studies (Huijsmans, 2016), childhood studies and youth studies (James and James, 2008b; Jones, 2009; Wells, 2009), and some that combine the two (Ansell, 2016a; Panelli, Punch and Robson, 2007), this report recognizes childhood and youth in relational terms, defined by their position in inter-generational relations and across the life-course. However, when citing data, generally youth are defined according to age as persons aged between 15 and 24 years of age, unless specified otherwise.



# Why is including youth important?





Most common employment sector for youth in the global south.



Influence family diet decisions.

**16** of the global population.

%



Significant demographic of displaced persons.



Organize in social movements.

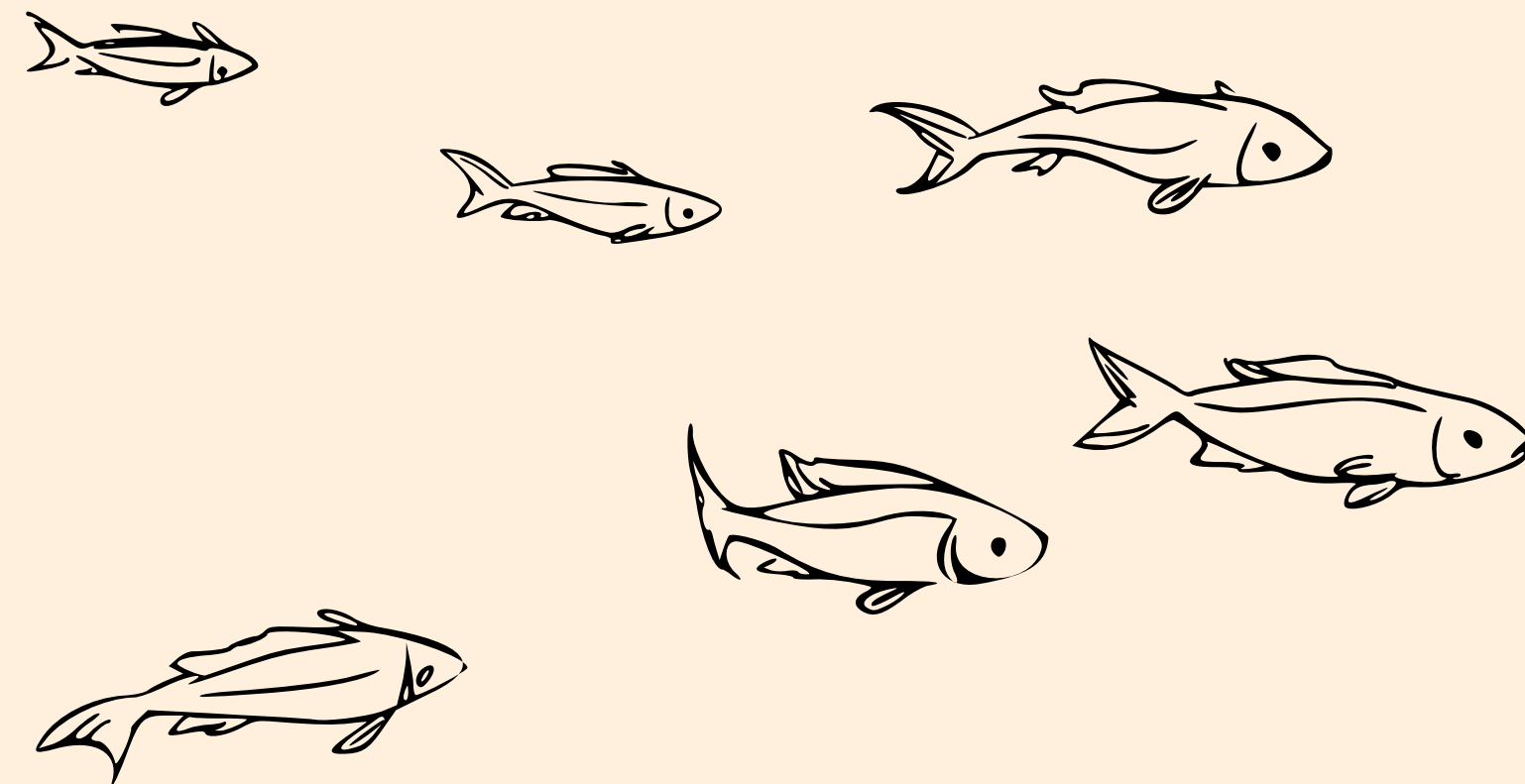


Young people are ready for change and have a stake in the future.

**YOUTH ARE THE LEADERS  
OF TODAY**



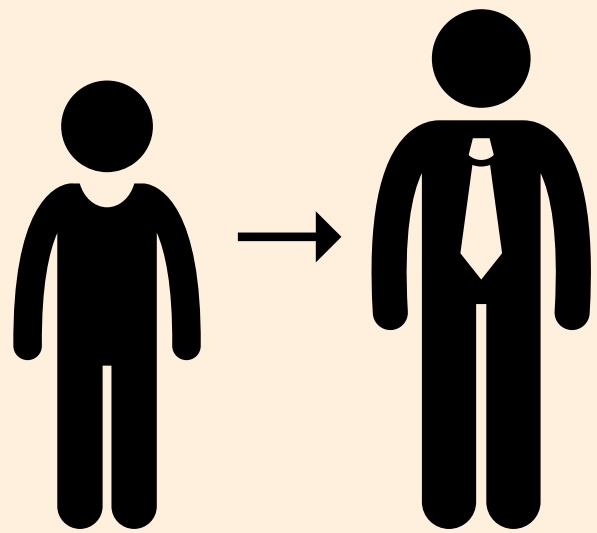




# Community Solution Project: Aquaculture in DRC



# Unique aspects of youth



Don't remain youth.

Heterogenous.

Mobile.



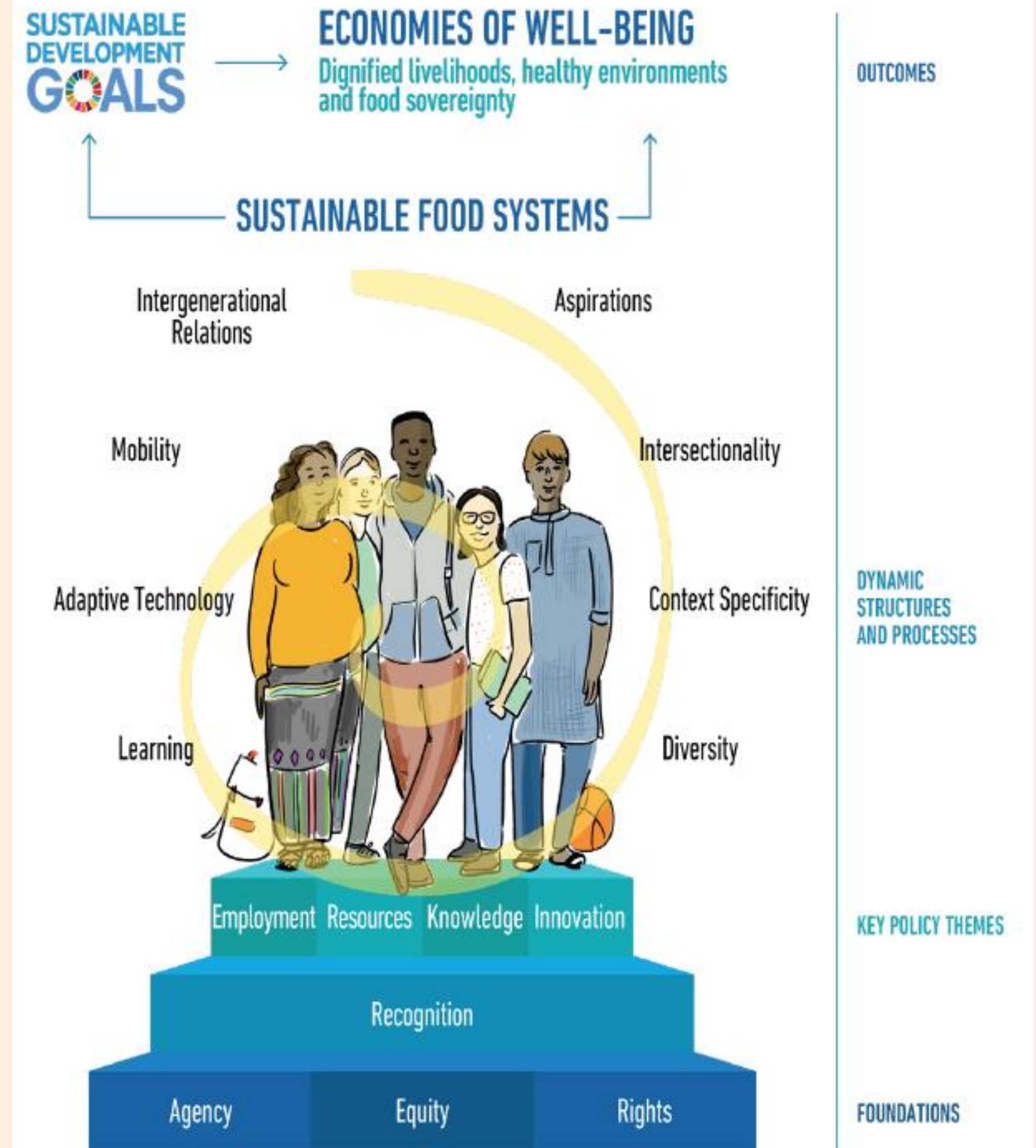
# YOUTH SUPPORT INTERVENTION FRAMEWORK



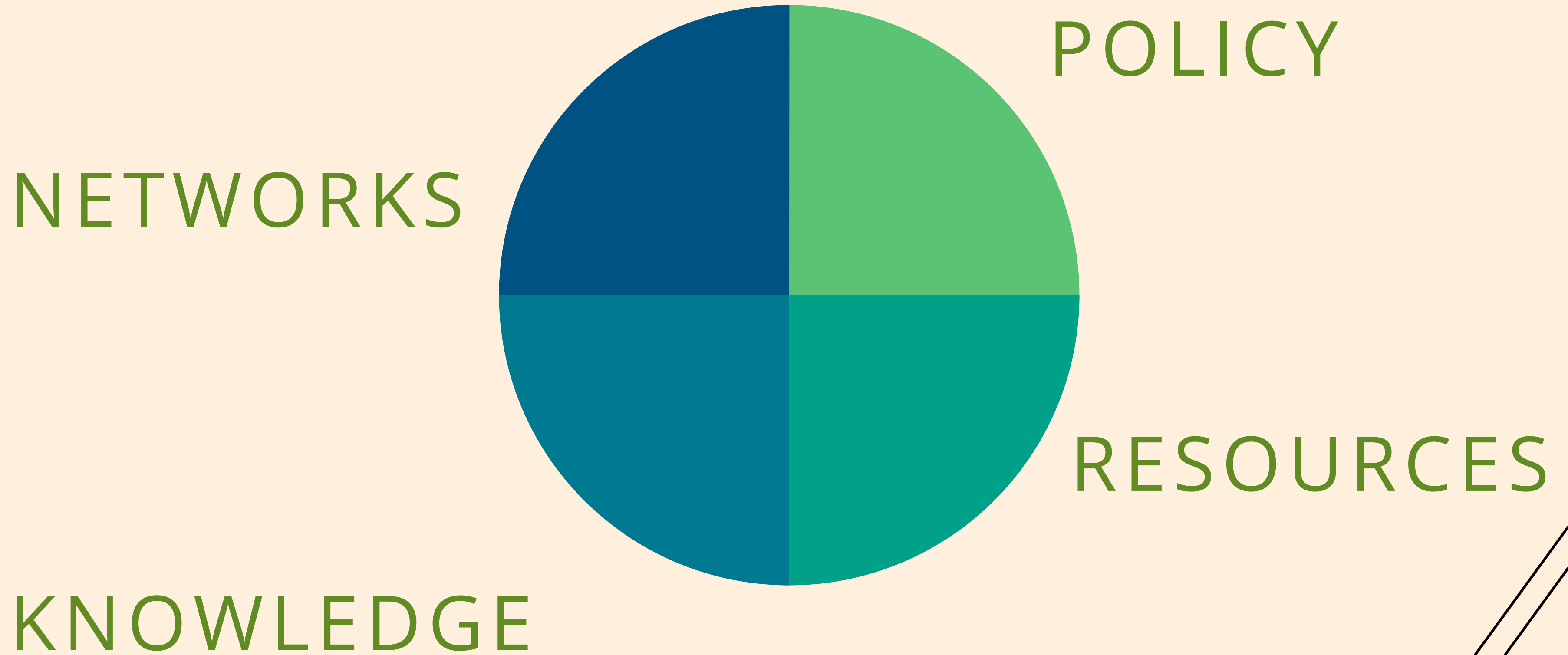




## PROMOTING YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND EMPLOYMENT IN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS







# KNOWLEDGE

- Helps improve food system practices.
- Leads to resilience.
- Connects global and local goals.
- In necessary for decision making in leadership positions.



# ENABLING POLICY

- Policy support to overcome structural barriers to youth inclusion.
  - Youth inclusion policy for the organization.
  - Youth inclusion in boards.



# ACCESS TO RESOURCES

- Land, water, policy spaces, etc.
- Fair remuneration.
- Support to education, networks, connections to sector leadership.



# NETWORKS



- Link organizations and individuals.
- Provide access to knowledge, finance, policy.
- Create social capital.
- To avoid tokenistic representation.

"While conveying the vision of YPARD, my professional network has expanded, both nationally, regionally and internationally. Thanks to YPARD, I had to collaborate with international institutions. As Country Representative, I benefited from several trainings ranging from Gender in Agriculture to Knowledge Management through Foresight which **allowed me to establish my leadership** in these areas."

*-Sokhna Gaye Rokhaya, YPARD Senegal CR*





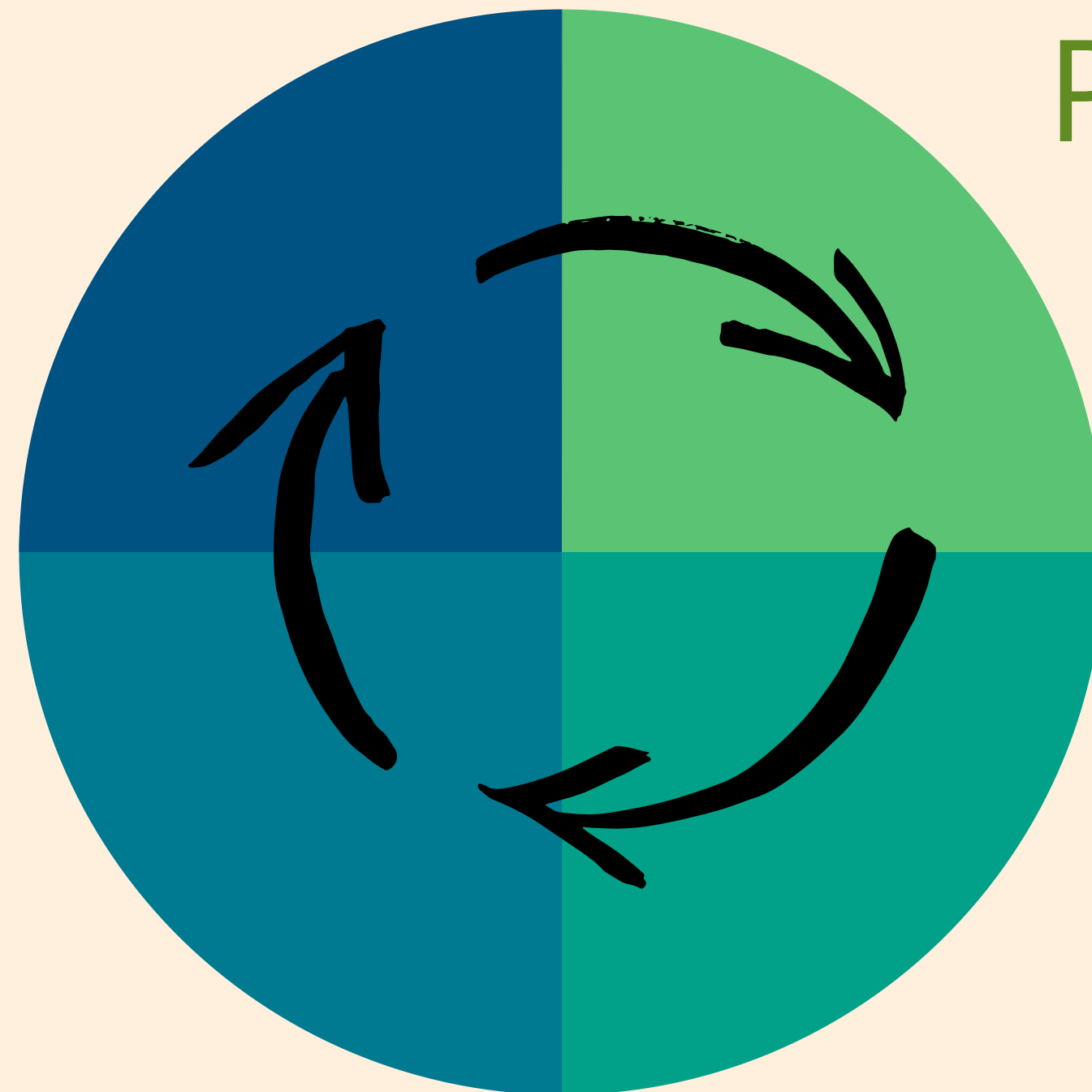


"Attending the COP27 in-person (and preparation therefore) helped me **understand international climate negotiations** in a way I never could have otherwise. Thanks to co-organizing a pavilion session with the Ban Ki-Moon Center, I also got the chance to **organize a thought-leadership event** on an international stage, bringing me hands-on experience, which boosts my CV and invaluable professional connections."

*-Heitor Dellastella, Brasil Country Representative*

NETWORKS

KNOWLEDGE



POLICY

FINANCE



# Always with youth.



# Put it into practice

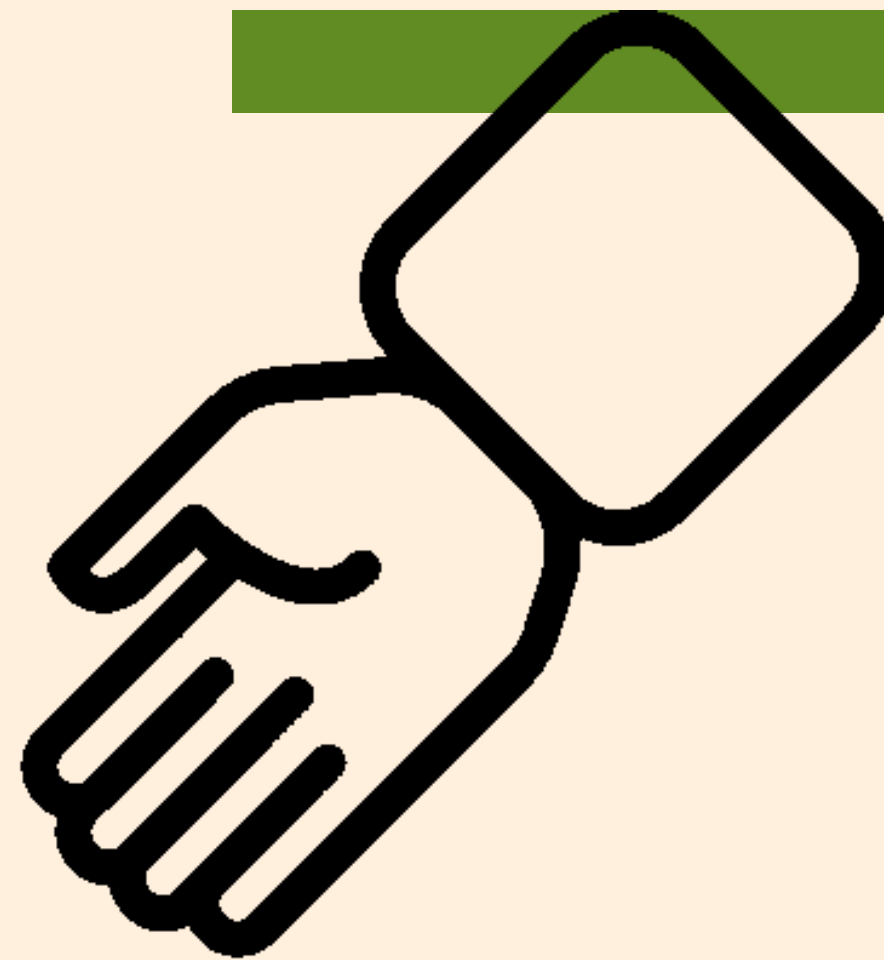
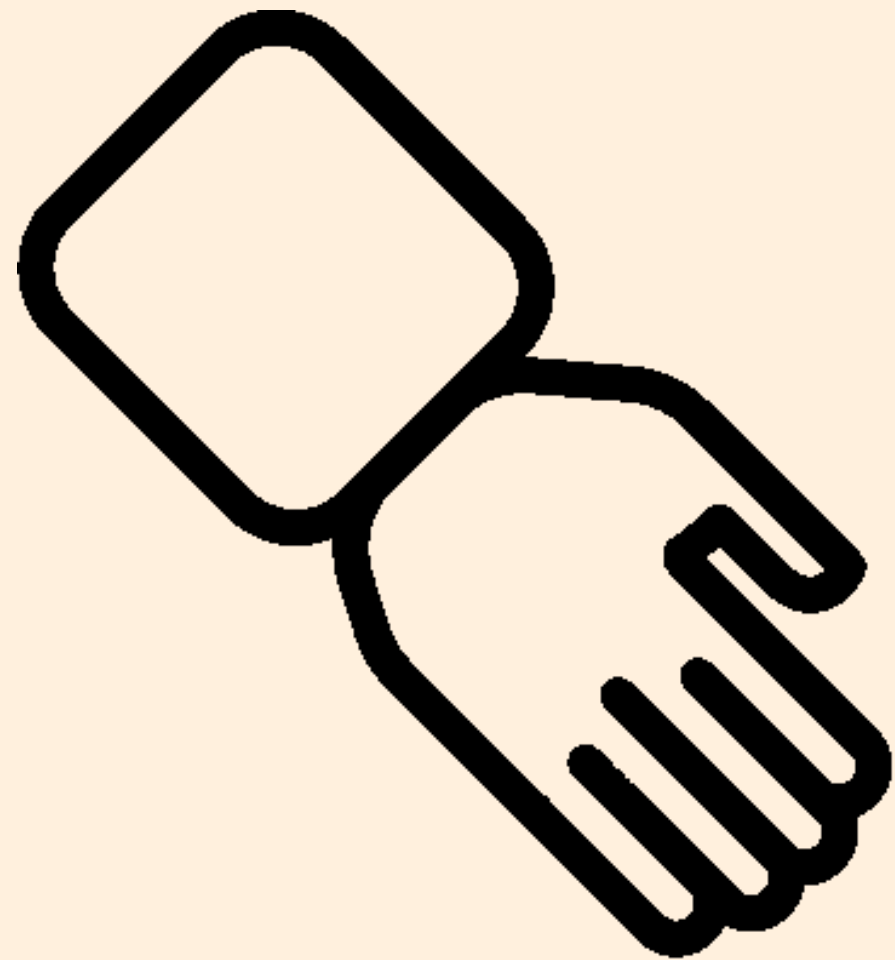


- Integrate young people in organization boards.
- Adopt a generational renewal plan for your organization-- internally and for projects.
- Co-author a knowledge product with young professionals.
- Offer paid internships.

# Key donor messages



- Young people need support financially, but also mentorship to develop their **networks** in addition to **knowledge**.
- Youth organizations at a local level often do not have a legal body or a project track record.
  - Try **fellowships** which focus on movers and shakers.



**Thank you!**

Genna Tesdall

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