



WORLD
FOOD
FORUM

GLOBAL
YOUTH
ACTION

World Food Forum

National Youth Chapters, 2025

Blueprint



THE WORLD FOOD FORUM

The World Food Forum (WFF), launched in 2021 as an independent network of partners hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), is a global platform dedicated to transforming agrifood systems and accelerating progress toward the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through youth action, science and innovation, and investment, the WFF fosters strategic partnerships and cross-sector collaborations to catalyse transformative change in agrifood systems at the local, regional and global levels, working towards a sustainable, resilient and hunger-free world, leaving no one behind.

Within this framework, the WFF's Global Youth Action Initiative (Youth Initiative) was established to harness the passion and power of youth to transform our agrifood systems. It acts as a catalytic movement and driver of youth engagement in food governance, and serves as a knowledge centre and innovation lab, fostering and inspiring youth-led solutions. It thus actively contributes to the implementation of the United Nations Youth 2030 Strategy and enhances youth engagement in the follow-up of the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit.

The WFF Youth Initiative is implemented through a set of thematic programmes providing young people with the tools, knowledge and networks needed to create and scale actionable and sustainable solutions: Youth Assembly, Youth Innovation Lab, Youth Education, Youth Culture and Local Youth Action.

The year-round activities of the WFF Youth Initiative culminate at the annual WFF flagship event, which harnesses intergenerational collaboration, partnerships and action to accelerate change, amplify local initiatives and drive progress toward a sustainable, resilient and hunger-free world.

Institutionally, the WFF Youth Initiative is managed by FAO's Office of Youth and Women, further strengthening its role in empowering youth, including young women, to drive sustainable agrifood solutions.



WFF YOUTH PROGRAMMES

To inspire and empower youth worldwide by reflecting their diverse priorities and shared interests, the WFF Youth Initiative is structured around five thematic programmes. These programmes provide multiple avenues for youth engagement, ensuring inclusive and meaningful participation on a global scale. They include:

- **Youth Assembly:** Serving as the premier platform for the structured and systematic engagement of youth in agrifood systems policy and governance spaces, developing recommendations and solutions to inform intergovernmental processes and drive programmatic actions.
- **Youth Innovation Lab:** Empowering young innovators by offering visibility, capacity development and funding opportunities to develop, elevate and scale high impact solutions to address agrifood systems challenges.
- **Youth Education:** Providing learning, career opportunities and resources to enable young people to become agents of change for sustainable agrifood systems.
- **Youth Culture:** Inspiring and empowering youth, enabling them to leverage culture to drive behavioural change through capacity development and storytelling for more sustainable agrifood systems.
- **Local Youth Action:** Mobilizing local youth-driven initiatives via national youth platforms at the country level, catalysing sustainable transformation in agrifood systems across local, regional and global contexts.

WFF FLAGSHIP EVENT

The annual WFF flagship event is a dynamic global platform that transcends boundaries, generations and sectors to transform the future of our agrifood systems. It is structured around three main pillars - Global Youth Action, Science and Innovation, and Hand-in-Hand Investment, bringing together all stakeholders to serve as a dynamic space for turning ideas into actions scaling solutions and forging meaningful partnerships. By uniting diverse voices and fostering cross-sectoral and intergenerational collaboration, it accelerates progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals, driving action at global, regional and local levels.



At the 2024 flagship event, the WFF demonstrated its growing influence as a global movement for agrifood systems transformation, drawing tens of thousands of participants from around the world and reaching an impressive 1.7 billion social media accounts. The event was held from 14 to 18 October 2024, under the theme *“Good Food for All, for Today and Tomorrow”*, uniting policymakers, industry leaders, scientists and young changemakers. This milestone gathering fostered learning, knowledge-sharing and partnership-building to drive progress toward a better food future.

In 2024, the event also hosted pivotal discussions and events, including the annual World Food Day celebrations, the High-Level Rome Water Dialogue on WASAG (the Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture) and the Global Family Farming Forum.

As it continues to expand its reach and impact, the WFF remains a powerful platform for tackling the most pressing challenges facing agrifood systems today and in the future.

WFF NATIONAL YOUTH CHAPTERS

Why go local?

While agrifood systems challenges are global, meaningful and lasting change begins at the local level. Young people deserve a voice in shaping the decisions that affect their daily lives, and often the best place to maximize their impact and participation is at the local level.

Recognizing that every agrifood system is shaped by its unique local context, it will be crucial that agrifood solutions are rooted in the priorities, knowledge and aspirations of young people who experience them firsthand.

By placing youth in the driver’s seat to develop context-specific agrifood solutions for their communities, cities and countries, we can ensure that ideas take root, actions gain momentum, and global agrifood systems transformation becomes a reality. Therefore, building a better food future will require a fresh approach - one that is locally led, empowers youth at the country level and thrives on collaboration, network-building and strong partnerships.

National Youth Chapters are a centrepiece of the WFF Youth Initiative’s localization strategy, embodying the principle of “thinking global and acting local”. Through the coordination of these national youth platforms, and close collaboration with FAO’s Decentralized Offices and relevant government bodies, the WFF Youth Initiative is empowering young leaders and driving local action to transform agrifood systems for a more sustainable and inclusive future.

These Youth Chapters play a pivotal role in translating global commitments into tangible, localized solutions - addressing community-specific challenges and advancing sustainable agrifood systems transformation from the ground up.

What are National Youth Chapters?

A WFF National Youth Chapter is a self-organized national youth agrifood platform aligned with the mission and principles of the WFF Youth Initiative, and convened by a local network of partners, whenever possible, in collaboration with a relevant FAO Office.

National Youth Chapters provide a uniquely unifying platform for youth to collaborate with each other, share ideas, initiate and sustain context-specific agrifood solutions in their communities, and inform policymaking in their countries and regions. They help bridge gaps between fragmented youth efforts, foster stronger partnerships and amplify youth voices from the local level.

Established with the support of FAO's Decentralized Offices at national and regional levels, National Youth Chapters receive guidance to align their initiatives with the country's strategic programming framework for agrifood systems transformation. This collaboration enhances their capacity to engage diverse youth groups and strengthens their institutional presence locally. WFF National Youth Chapters serve as structured, youth-led agrifood networks, enabling FAO Members and Decentralized Offices to implement youth-focused programmes more effectively.

By fostering strong partnerships, these Chapters play a key role in advancing inclusive and sustainable agrifood systems at the national level.

Why WFF National Youth Chapters?

Championing National Youth Chapters is crucial. They serve as independent and inclusive platforms that bring together young people from diverse backgrounds and contexts to discuss, exchange ideas and organize impactful activities tailored to their diverse local needs. As a result, they bridge gaps between fragmented youth-focused efforts within a country, uniting young people in driving context-specific impact and meaningful change.

Recognizing that a one-size-fits-all approach does not work in all contexts, National Youth Chapters develop country and context-specific policies and action plans to address their unique challenges. They **bridge the gap between global discussions and local realities, offering a localized perspective to global conversations on agrifood systems transformation.**

As WFF National Youth Chapters work with FAO Offices and relevant government institutions, where possible, they receive institutional support and credibility to carry out their youth-led

activities and priorities, thereby leading to enhanced impact of their policy recommendations and initiatives. At the same time, they **provide an institutional youth-led network for governments and FAO Decentralized Offices to consult with and with which to implement youth related programming.**

Furthermore, National Youth Chapters **provide opportunities for young people to network with peers and relevant agrifood experts, fostering meaningful connections that transcend borders.** They cultivate a multicultural, multisectoral and intergenerational environment that brings diverse perspectives into dialogue, enriching their discussions and local projects on the future of the agrifood sector.

Moving beyond traditional approaches to youth engagement, National Youth Chapters empower local youth to take on true leadership roles, driving meaningful, locally relevant and globally impactful change. Even more, **national youth chapters enable young leaders to enhance skills that are beneficial for their career and professional advancement.** Within National Chapters, youth take on key roles in project management, partnerships, communication, research and documentation, among others. Members also benefit from ongoing capacity-building initiatives, including workshops, peer-to-peer exchanges and mentorship programmes, fostering learning, knowledge-sharing and the advancement of their initiatives.

PRINCIPLES OF WFF NATIONAL YOUTH CHAPTERS

Aligned to the principles and mission of the WFF Youth Initiative

National Youth Chapters embody the WFF Youth Initiative's mission of "Empowering youth for a better food future". They reinforce the idea that young people are not only key contributors to the current state of agrifood systems but also pivotal in shaping their future.

By fostering innovation, inclusivity and action-oriented solutions, these Chapters empower youth to drive positive change within their communities, transforming agrifood systems and creating a more sustainable and equitable food future in their countries and regions.

Self-organized and independent

As there is no "one-size fits-all" model that can work for all local contexts, National Youth Chapters determine their own governance structure, activities and decision-making processes, following the



guidance of the WFF Youth Initiative and their respective FAO Office in the country. This ensures alignment with FAO standards, best practices, and [Strategic goals](#).

While the Youth Chapter leadership may take different forms, it will be crucial that selected leaders:

- Support the mission and vision of the National Youth Chapter and the WFF Youth Initiative;
- Ensure inclusive and representative leadership by advocating for diversity across regions, sectors and backgrounds, promoting gender balance and fostering equitable participation.
- Strive to make the Youth Chapter an inclusive and safe/open space;
- Motivate and inspire others to take action;
- Stay neutral from political preferences or agendas; and
- Keep a constant line of communication with the WFF Youth Initiative and the network of Chapters.

Detailed guidelines on the roles and conduct of Youth Chapter leaders are outlined in a commitment agreement, which they adhere to.

Open and inclusive spaces

National Youth Chapters are designed to foster an open and inclusive space where young people from diverse backgrounds—spanning various expertise, education levels, incomes, heritage, gender and identities can collaborate and drive meaningful change.

To achieve this, these Chapters should adopt the "network of partners" model exemplified by the WFF Youth Initiative, mobilizing multi-stakeholder partnerships across relevant sectors and organizations within agrifood systems. By embracing inclusivity and collaboration, National Youth Chapters can harness the strengths of diverse organizations, creating a network effect that amplifies collective efforts and generates an impact far greater than the sum of its parts.

Leverage the framework and activities of WFF youth programmes

The WFF youth programmes provide useful templates to engage youth based on their different passions and interests in agrifood systems. As such, it is encouraged that the Chapters model their activities around the WFF Youth programmes by:



- Fostering meaningful youth engagement in policy development and implementation through the [WFF Youth Assembly](#).
- Identifying, supporting and celebrating young agrifood entrepreneurs, scientific research and startups via the WFF Youth Innovation Lab.
- Advancing agrifood education and youth leadership through the WFF Youth Education Programme.
- Leveraging cultural elements including art, film, music and gastronomy, to unite youth, foster connections, ignite discussions and inspire action for meaningful change.

Self-sustaining entities

It is advised that National Youth Chapters elaborate a strategy to attract the requisite resources needed to make the Chapter self-sustaining. This will include taking advantage of local resources and existing structures, including working with multi-stakeholder partners and alliances, as well as leveraging volunteer support. The WFF Youth Initiative team will offer strategic guidance to support National Youth Chapters in fundraising and resource mobilization. However, the ultimate responsibility for securing and managing resources will rest with each Chapter. Additionally, Chapters are encouraged to explore opportunities for governmental support and draw insights from the experiences of other WFF National Youth Chapters.

Guided by this blueprint

The WFF National Youth Chapters stand guided by this Blueprint that may be amended or modified after consultation with the Chapters, and in agreement with the WFF Youth Initiative team

HOW TO ESTABLISH A WFF NATIONAL YOUTH CHAPTER

1. Begin by identifying whether there is an existing chapter in your country or region.

You can do that by exploring the [WFF Youth](#) Initiative website that maintains an updated list of WFF National Youth Chapters.



- ◆ If a Chapter already exists or is in the process of formation, please complete the [National Youth Chapters Interest Form](#) to learn how you can support the development of your National Chapter. The WFF Youth Initiative team will reach out to connect you with the current leadership of the Chapter.
- ◆ If no Chapter exists in your country, complete the National Youth Chapters Interest Form and send an email to local-action@world-food-forum.org expressing your interest in contributing to the establishment of a WFF National Youth Chapter. A member of the WFF Youth Initiative team will contact you, guide you through the necessary steps and provide approval to move forward with the next actions.

Please note that a WFF National Youth Chapter can only be established once the authorization has been provided by the WFF Youth Initiative team.

2. Organize and mobilize a local network of partners

Identify and engage key stakeholders who share your passion and motivation for establishing the National Youth Chapter and are committed to playing an active role in its development. These stakeholders may include youth-led and youth-focused organizations, young farmers, young agrifood entrepreneurs, universities and students, other relevant institutions and dedicated individuals from the sub-sectors that make up the agrifood sector. Bringing together a diverse group is essential to map existing efforts, promote collaboration and build a representative foundation that reflects the unique dynamics of your country.

To guide you on this process, you can draw inspiration from a case study on effective mobilization by the WFF Italian [Youth Chapter](#).

3. Initiate a kick-off and briefing session

Before the round of consultation begins, a general meeting with the WFF Local Youth Action team and the identified networks of partners should be held to introduce the mission, vision and objectives of the WFF's Youth Initiative and National Youth Chapters. The meeting serves as an opportunity to foster dialogue, encourage brainstorming and exchange ideas among participants. The outcomes of these discussions will serve as a foundation for drafting an initial concept document that outlines the chapter's structure, priorities and future direction.

4. Engage in extensive consultations

A comprehensive round of consultations should be conducted to foster dialogue and build consensus on the key aspects shaping the Youth Chapter. Engaging a diverse range of



stakeholders—including young leaders, partner organizations and relevant institutions will ensure that the Chapter's structure, priorities and objectives reflect the collective vision and needs of those it aims to serve. This collaborative and inclusive approach will not only strengthen ownership and commitment among participants but also lay a strong foundation for a National Youth Chapter that is both impactful and sustainable.

5. Submit a concept note to the WFF Youth Initiative team

Refine the ideas from the consultation process into a concept note. This document should outline the key parameters and priorities for the National Youth Chapter's activities, reflecting the outcomes of discussions among participating organizations. It should capture the identified priorities and the country context, and propose a set of activities for the upcoming year.

6. Review and feedback

The WFF Youth Initiative team will review the application and provide a response to the applicants. The response will be based on the team's consideration and the review and inputs by the respective FAO Office in the country/region.

The application can be ratified as is, or it may be sent back with feedback for further refinement.

7. Develop an activity plan

Following this, applicants will refine the Chapter's concept note into a comprehensive activity plan, with support from the WFF Youth Initiative team. The plan should detail specific activities, timelines, resource requirements and potential sources of support, including technical expertise, human and financial resources and strategic partnerships. Applicants should prioritize innovative and sustainable approaches to securing resources, leveraging local networks and opportunities. A clear and actionable strategy for mobilizing the necessary support and resources is essential to ensure the Chapter's progress, success and sustainability.

In drafting their workplan, National Youth Chapters can draw inspiration from:

- Youth agricultural and rural development agrifood systems policies.
- [UN Youth 2030 Strategy](#).
- [FAO Strategic Framework's](#) cross-cutting theme on youth, [FAO's Rural Youth Action Plan](#), and the endorsed '[Committee on World Food Security \(CFS\) Policy Recommendations on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems](#)'.

- WFF Youth Assembly [Global Youth Action Plan](#). The guideline developed by the WFF Youth Policy Board and WFF Youth Representatives identifies regional priorities based on many regional consultations and the Global Youth Policy Compendium endorsed in 2021, 2022 and 2023, through desk research, consultations and assemblies.

Once the Concept Note and activity plan are submitted and approved by the WFF's Youth Initiative team, the Chapter is then considered a **Provisional WFF National Youth Chapter**. This stage serves as a bridge between planning and execution, ensuring that the Chapter is well-prepared to implement impactful activities and drive meaningful change in agrifood systems. The process culminates with the necessary approvals from the FAO Office and/or relevant government bodies, solidifying the Chapter's readiness to move forward.

During this development stage, the WFF National Youth Chapters should:

Establish a leadership team: A strong and effective leadership team is essential for the success of the National Youth Chapter. This team should be composed of passionate young individuals from diverse backgrounds, bringing a range of skills and expertise to manage the Chapter's operations. Team members should be deeply committed to agrifood systems, well-connected within the local agrifood landscape and dedicated to building a thriving community over the next 12 months.

In line with the WFF Youth Initiative's mission to empower youth, promoting gender equality and women's empowerment is a core value. To ensure balanced representation and inclusive decision-making, it is essential for both young women and men to take on leadership roles within the team.

While each Youth Chapter has the flexibility to design its structure based on local needs and context, the WFF Youth Initiative will offer guidance based on successful models from other impactful National Youth Chapters.

To formalize their commitment, the leadership team will sign a Commitment Agreement. This document, developed in accordance with the Chapter's Blueprint, outlines the roles, responsibilities and expected conduct of Chapter leaders, ensuring alignment with the principles and mission of the WFF Youth Initiative.

Online presence and social media handles: To build a national youth agrifood movement, an online reference point for information will be required. Following the approval by the WFF Communications team, the National Youth Chapter will then be allowed to set up social media handles to support online engagement of prospective members, volunteers



and supporters. The WFF Youth Initiative's Communications team will provide the necessary social media guidance documents and appropriate handles. It will be crucial that all National Youth Chapters adhere to this guidance to ensure consistency and alignment.

Engagement with FAO Country team: As the National Youth Chapter development process gains momentum, **the WFF Local Youth Action team** will initiate conversations with the FAO Office in the country. This dialogue is meant to introduce the chapter's vision and efforts to the FAO Country Office and integrate their feedback to ensure alignment with the Country's Programming Framework and development priorities. Given FAO's decentralized structure, engaging with these offices ensures that the Chapter's initiatives align with national and regional development goals. As a key stakeholder, the FAO Office can offer valuable expertise, resources, and partnerships to support the Chapter's initiatives, where appropriate.

Please note that connecting and collaborating with the FAO Country Office is a gradual process and can take time. However, this necessary step helps set the foundation for an effective and productive partnership.

Based on best practices, some FAO Country Offices at this stage prefer to develop a tailored Terms of Reference (ToR) to define their collaboration with the WFF National Youth Chapter and key stakeholders, including relevant government departments and/or the hosting organization (if applicable). This ToR, supported by strategic guidance from the WFF Youth Initiative team, serves as a clear framework to structure and implement the Chapter's activities effectively while bring together the relevant parties together.

Resource and partner mobilization: Resource and partner mapping and mobilization will be required to effectively raise funds and mobilize other forms of domestic support that are needed for a successful implementation of the Chapters' activities and initiatives. In the case of the Nepal Youth Chapter, after completing all necessary procedures and establishing engagement with the FAO Country Office, with the support of the WFF Local Youth Action Team, they successfully secured support to mobilize resources. To explore this best practice, read [Nepal's case study](#).

It is important to note that while the WFF's Youth Initiative serves as a bridge to connect with these institutions, the ultimate responsibility for securing the resources needed to carry out activities lies with the National Youth Chapter.



Once the above National Youth Chapter mobilization, consultation and development process is completed, the **Provisional WFF National Youth Chapter** will be approved by the WFF Youth Initiative for launch!

Launch event: A launch event is deemed important to introduce the Chapter to the public, create buzz and excitement, and provide prospective youth an opportunity to learn about the National Youth Chapter. The Chapter can leverage International Days such as [International Youth Day](#), or coordinate to have the launch during the WFF flagship event.

Guidance and support from WFF Youth Initiative: From ideation to kick-off and growth, the WFF Youth Initiative team will provide support to National Youth Chapters. Through the Local Youth Action team of the WFF Youth Initiative, National Youth Chapters will have a constant reference point to guide and support their formation, campaigns and projects. For inspiration on how to go about the process, please read another example on Nepal's Youth Chapter.

WFF EXISTING YOUTH CHAPTERS

In 2022, the WFF launched its first National Youth Chapter in the Netherlands that piloted the localization of the WFF to target specific issues and mobilize local actions that can help transform agrifood systems. During the 2022 WFF flagship event, the second WFF National Youth Chapter in the United Republic of Tanzania was launched.

In 2023, the National Youth Chapters in Bangladesh, Ireland, Malawi, Nepal, Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, Spain, Uganda and Zimbabwe were launched.

In Ireland, the National Youth Food Forum was officially inaugurated with a virtual launch on March 5, followed by an in-country launch at the National Youth Food Summit held at the Airfield Estate in Dublin on 20 September. The journey culminated in the official launch of the National Chapter at the WFF 2023 Flagship Event.

The launch of the WFF National Chapter in the Republic of Korea was held on 17 October 2023 at the WFF Regional Forum event in Seoul, organized in collaboration with the FAO Partnership and Liaison Office in the Republic of Korea.



In 2024, after a mobilization, consultation and development process, the WFF National Youth Chapters network expanded across all FAO regions including to Argentina, Bhutan, Ecuador, Egypt, Ghana, Indonesia, Italy, Mauritania, Peru and Qatar.

While the chapter launches were also celebrated at the WFF Flagship event; Bhutan, Indonesia and Qatar also marked in-country launches. Bhutan's Youth Chapter was launched on International Youth Day, 12 August 2023 in Thimpu, Bhutan. The launch was part of the National Youth Symposium, organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock in collaboration with FAO Bhutan, attracting over 150 young participants.

The Indonesian Youth Chapter was launched on 2 October 2024 with support from the FAO Indonesia Office and in collaboration with the Executive Office of the President, the Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Industry. The Chapter was initiated by the Presidential Staff Office represented by Dr. H. Moeldoko.

Lastly, the Qatar Youth Chapter marked its in-country launch on 4 February 2025, at the sidelines, of the International Conference on Water and Food Security in the Face of Climate Change (WFCC), a global event held in Doha, Qatar on 4 and 5 February. The launch was marked by the symbolic exchange of certificates between Kazuki Kitaoka, Director of the FAO Office of Youth and Women; Hamad Al Hajri, Deputy Director at the Department of Food Security, Ministry of Municipality, Qatar; Dr. Salem Al-Naemi, President of UDST and Abdulrahman Al Kuwari, Chairperson of the WFF Qatar Youth Chapter.

FUTURE PLANS FOR WFF NATIONAL YOUTH CHAPTERS

With the demonstration of tangible impact within the existing WFF National Youth Chapters, the WFF Youth Initiative will work towards strengthening its 21 existing Youth Chapters to make them recognized, sustainable and financially independent national youth agrifood platforms driving meaningful youth engagement and empowerment in local, regional and global agrifood systems. We envision our National Youth Chapters evolving into a network of networks, uniting diverse youth constituencies and youth-focused organizations to drive grassroots transformative initiatives.



Simultaneously, the WFF in partnership with FAO Decentralized Offices, relevant governments and partners, will work towards expanding National Youth Chapters to create a global mosaic of youth agrifood platforms that inspire, connect and empower young people to transform their local agrifood systems, communities and the world.

For any inquiries about WFF National Chapters, please contact local-action@world-food-forum.org