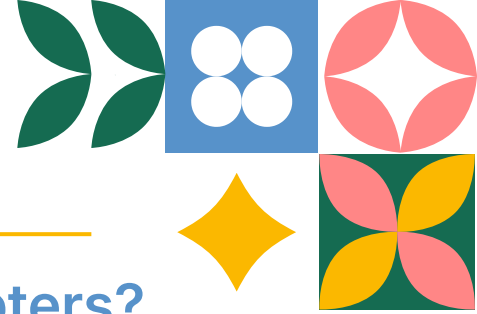




WORLD
FOOD
FORUM

GLOBAL
YOUTH
ACTION

WFF National Youth Chapters: Governance Structure



What are WFF National Youth Chapters?

A World Food Forum (WFF) National Youth Chapter is a self-organized national youth agrifood platform aligned with the mission and principles of the WFF Global Youth Action Initiative (WFF Youth Initiative). Each Chapter is convened by a local network of partners – including youth-led and youth-focused organizations, academic institutions, civil society organizations, and private sector entities –and, wherever possible, in collaboration with the relevant Decentralized Offices of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and government counterparts. Together, these Chapters provide a unifying platform through which young people can co-create solutions, exchange ideas, and drive agrifood systems transformation within their communities, while directly contributing to policymaking processes at the national, regional and global levels.

Recognizing that establishing a WFF National Youth Chapter can be a complex undertaking, this document provides a step-by-step guide to support the development of a Chapter's governance structure, providing a clear and practical framework for its successful implementation.

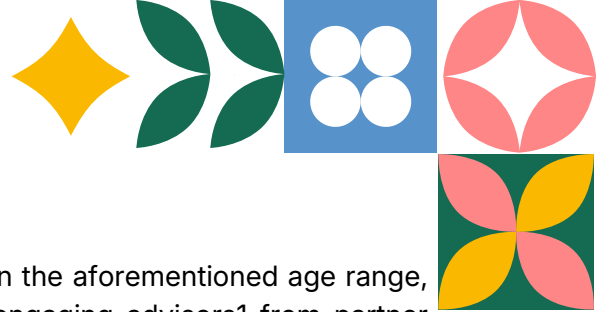
Leadership requirements for WFF National Youth Chapters

A strong and effective leadership team is essential to the success of WFF National Youth Chapters. This team should be composed of passionate young individuals from diverse backgrounds, bringing a range of complementary skills and expertise to manage the Chapter's operations effectively. Team members should demonstrate a genuine commitment to agrifood systems, be well connected within the local agrifood ecosystem, and remain dedicated to fostering a dynamic and inclusive youth community throughout their engagement with the Chapter. Given that the Core Leadership Team will liaise with FAO and a range of international stakeholders, proficiency in both English and the relevant national language is recommended to ensure effective communication and collaboration across all levels.

To ensure independence, transparency and strong local representation, leadership positions within the Chapter may not be held by FAO employees and/or government representatives and must be filled by individuals residing in the Chapter's country.

Leadership roles are open only to individuals between the ages of 18 and 35 who are nationals of the country or have been legal residents for at least five consecutive years. Should a leader's residency or domicile status change during their tenure, an orderly transition of leadership shall be undertaken to ensure continued local representation and accountability.

In line with the WFF Youth Initiative's mission to empower young people – and young women in particular – gender equality and the empowerment of young women within Chapter leadership is a core requirement. To promote balanced representation and inclusive decision-making, young women, in all their diversity, must actively participate in leadership roles within the Chapter.



While leadership positions are strictly limited to individuals within the aforementioned age range, Chapters may benefit from intergenerational collaboration by engaging advisors¹ from partner organizations or other collaborators. These advisors can provide strategic guidance, technical expertise and mentorship, strengthening the Chapter's overall effectiveness while ensuring that decision-making authority remains with the youth leadership.

Setting up the leadership structure: a step-by-step guide

1. IDENTIFY THE CORE LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Core Leadership Team of a WFF National Youth Chapter is initially formed by the group of young people who have led the mobilization efforts to establish it – namely, those who have conducted the consultation process and prepared the first draft of the Chapter's Concept Note. As the Chapter takes shape, it is important to gradually expand the network by increasing membership and strengthening local representation, ensuring that different regions and stakeholder groups within the country are meaningfully included and represented. A Chapter composed of only a small number of individuals risks undermining broad representation, inclusivity and the overall legitimacy of the initiative.

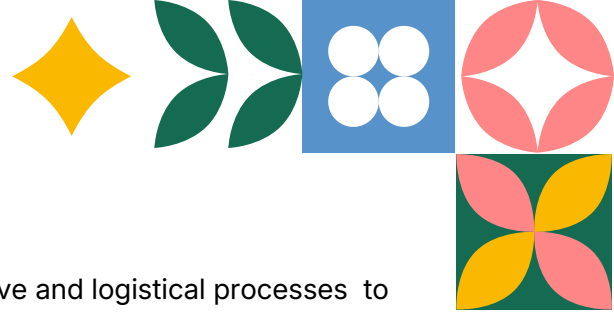
2. DEFINE THE LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE

The first task of the Core Leadership Team is to define and organize the Chapter's leadership structure. While this structure may be adapted to national contexts, the WFF Youth Initiative strongly recommends the following framework to ensure effective coordination, accountability, and alignment with it: Core Leadership Team

The Core Leadership Team serves as the Chapter's primary coordination body and principal liaison with FAO and the WFF Youth Initiative. Its responsibilities include ensuring effective institutional coordination, fostering strategic partnerships, identifying relevant collaborators, overseeing the monitoring of activities and impact, and supporting resource mobilization.

The following functions are strongly recommended within the Core Leadership Team:

- **Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL):** tracks progress, assesses impact, and ensures lessons learned are captured to improve programmes and inform decision-making;
- **Partnerships:** builds and maintains strategic relationships with organizations, stakeholders, and networks to strengthen collaboration and achieve and advance shared goals;
- **Resource Mobilization and Coordination:** identifies funding opportunities, secures resources, and coordinates efforts to ensure their transparent, effective and efficient use;
- **Communications:** develops and manages messaging, storytelling, and outreach, including the Chapter's social media presence, in alignment with the WFF standards; and



- Operations Coordination: oversees day-to-day administrative and logistical processes to ensure smooth and efficient programme delivery, while maintaining effective communication with the WFF Youth Initiative team.

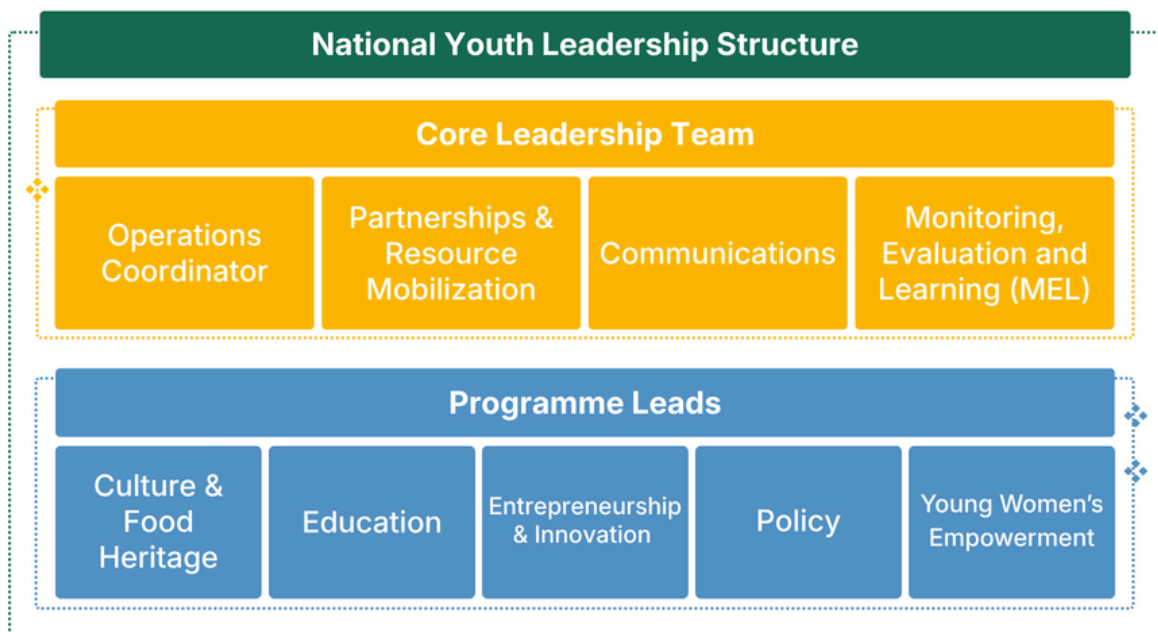
A) Programme Leads

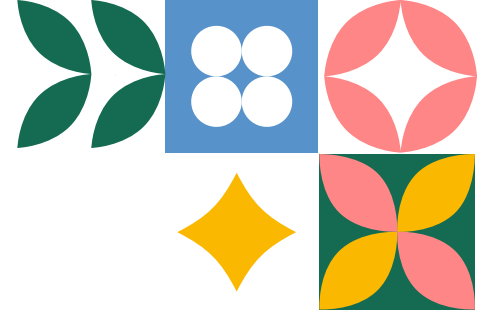
Programme Leads are young leaders with relevant knowledge, interest, and expertise in the programme areas advanced by the Chapter. The WFF Youth Initiative recommends aligning these programme areas with its the global pillars:

1. Culture and Food Heritage
2. Education
3. Entrepreneurship and Innovation
4. Policy
5. Young Women's Empowerment

Where a dedicated leadership role cannot be established for each programme area, Chapters should designate a focal point to serve as the main liaison with the WFF Youth Initiative team. Where a Chapter determines that a programme area will not be represented through either a leadership role or a focal point, this decision should be clearly justified in the Chapter's Concept Note.

Suggested Chapter Structure:





FINAL STEPS

Once the election results have been shared with all Chapter members, a meeting should be organized to formally present the new leadership structure. This meeting should be facilitated by the Core Leadership Team and include all members who have expressed interest in the Chapter, as well as the relevant focal points from the WFF Youth Initiative and, where available, the FAO Country Office.

Going forward, each programme should establish its own communication channels (e.g., WhatsApp groups) to maintain coordination among members, while providing regular updates to the Core Leadership Team, which will monitor the performance and success of each programme. Members may participate in more than one programme, but may only serve as lead of a single programme. This should be clarified during the onboarding of new members and made available in a shared document, including within the expression of interest form. The Core Leadership Team remains responsible for all direct communications with FAO focal points, who may nonetheless join programme communications whenever their involvement is relevant. Finally, to formally recognize their role, all leadership members must sign the WFF Commitment Agreement, with mandates lasting for the duration specified in this document. Other relevant documents for Chapter establishment