

The background features a vibrant, stylized illustration of a rural landscape. At the top left, a bright yellow sun is partially obscured by a white, fluffy cloud. Below the sun, a large, lush green plant with broad leaves dominates the left side. In the center and right, there is a collection of fresh produce, including several orange carrots, a large orange pumpkin, and two red tomatoes. The bottom of the image shows rolling green hills with diagonal hatching lines, suggesting a field or pasture. The overall color palette is bright and natural, with a blue sky background.

**2021**

**ACTIVITY REPORT**

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In 2021, the WRF as a whole, including partner organisations and the WRF Secretariat, has developed its actions in a complex, highly uncertain and dynamic context, marked by the different impacts of the pandemic and new agendas that are being introduced in the national, regional and international contexts and that must necessarily be interpreted, influenced and put at the service of strengthening family farming and rural development.



The WRF has been both resilient and innovative in its processes, its initiatives for the benefit of its members, its decision-making and, needless to say, its proposals for public policies.

In 2021, a high degree of joint and more direct work has been achieved with regional family farmers organisations (including contracts with various organisations to delegate certain tasks of the WRF Secretariat); work has been done to position family farming in discussions on sustainable food systems and to consolidate strategic alliances with key actors such as FAO, ILC, IFAD and Slow Food, among others. Of particular importance is the agreement signed and put into effect with European Commission DG INTPA which opens up new opportunities for the WRF.

The WRF has paid particular attention to national activities (particularly by supporting the 45 National Committees for Family Farming), and has also taken advantage of the enormous potential of alliances with international players.

The WRF also attempts to contribute to the immediate surrounding area; in this case, it has worked to connect the local players with global processes (the 2030 Agenda, the United Nations Decade of Family Farming and Sustainable Food Systems) and is boosting the action taken by the Basque Regional Committee for Family Farming.



**Work has been done to position family farming in discussions on sustainable food systems and to consolidate strategic alliances with key actors such as FAO, ILC, IFAD and Slow Food, among others.**

The score of more than 20 exchanges conducted and the Global Conference on Family Farming have played a fundamental role in consolidating the WRF as a key player in the creation of favourable environments for the development of family farming. The high level of participation and the positive evaluations received are undoubtedly the result of the team spirit and qualities and of the design and participatory conduct of the Conference, features regarded as essential to meet the challenge of a global online Conference.

Finally, I would like to emphasise the enormous effort made to focus on communication and fund-raising designed to achieve the objectives of the WRF.

Although 2021 was a positive year for the WRF, many challenges were identified and they will undoubtedly be to the fore in 2022. The WRF will face them with humility but will endeavour to be more and more a Forum (offering space for reflection and for the development of proposals appropriate to changing circumstances), to be more rural (increasing its territorial reach) and to be more global (consolidating existing alliances and seeking new allies to strengthen family farming).

**Laura Lorenzo**

Director of the WRF Secretariat

## REPORT 2021

## GLOSSARY

<b>AECID</b>	Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation)
<b>AFA</b>	Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development
<b>AMUGE</b>	Asociación de Mujeres Gitanas de Euskadi (Association of Gypsy Women of the Basque Country)
<b>APFP</b>	Asia-Pacific Farmers' Program
<b>CBI2-ILC</b>	Global Initiative on Family Farming of the International Land Coalition
<b>CFS</b>	Committee on World Food Security
<b>CNCR</b>	Conseil national de concertation et de coopération des ruraux (National Council for Rural Dialogue and Cooperation)
<b>COPROFAM</b>	Confederación de Organizaciones de Productores Familiares del Mercosur Ampliado (Confederation of Family Producers' Organisations of Mercosur Extended)
<b>CRAF</b>	Regional Committee for Family Farming - Comité Régional de l'Agriculture Familiale - Comité Regional de Agricultura Familiar
<b>DG INTPA</b>	Directorate-General for International Partnerships of the European Commission
<b>EGK</b>	Consejo de la Juventud de Euskadi (Basque Youth Council)
<b>EHNE</b>	Euskal Herriko Nekazarien Elkartasuna (Solidaridad campesina de Euskal Herria, Farmers' Solidarity in the Basque Country)
<b>ESAFF</b>	Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers Forum
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
<b>FFF</b>	Forest and Farm Facility
<b>FIDA</b>	Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola
<b>FIFATA</b>	Fikambanana fampivoarana ny tantsaha ou association pour le progrès des paysans (association for the progress of farmers)
<b>FSS</b>	Food Systems Summit
<b>GEHITU</b>	Asociación de Gais, lesbianas, Trans, Bisexuales e Intersexuales del País Vasco (Association of Gays, Lesbians, Trans, Bisexuals and Intersexuals of the Basque Country)
<b>HLPF</b>	High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
<b>IFAD</b>	International Fund for Agricultural Development

<b>IICA</b>	Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación para la Agricultura (Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture)
<b>ILC</b>	International Land Coalition
<b>INADES</b>	Institut Africain pour le Développement Economique et Social (African Institute for Economic and Social Development)
<b>Konfekoop</b>	Confederación de Cooperativas de Euskadi (Confederation of Basque Cooperatives)
<b>LAC</b>	Latin America and Caribbean
<b>LoA</b>	Letter of Agreement
<b>LVC</b>	La Vía Campesina
<b>MAEC</b>	Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, Unión Europea y Cooperación de España (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain)
<b>NAP</b>	National Action Plan
<b>NCCF</b>	National Committee for Family Farming
<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental organization
<b>PDRR</b>	Programa Diálogo Regional Rural (Regional Rural Dialogue Programme)
<b>PROPAC</b>	Plateforme Régionale des Organisations Paysannes d'Afrique Centrale (Regional Platform of Farmers' Organisations in Central Africa)
<b>REAF</b>	Reunión especializada sobre agricultura familiar-Mercosur (Specialised meeting on family farming)
<b>REFACOF</b>	Réseau des Femmes Africaines pour la gestion Communautaire des Forêts (African Women's Network for Community Forest Management)
<b>SAARC</b>	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SECAC</b>	Secretaría Ejecutiva del Consejo Agropecuario Centroamericano (Executive Secretariat of the Central American Agricultural Council)
<b>SICA</b>	Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana (Central American Integration System)
<b>UAGA</b>	Unión Agroganadera de Álava / Arabako Nekazarien Elkartea (Álava Agro-livestock Union)
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNDF</b>	United Nations Decade of Family Farming
<b>UNDF ISC</b>	International Steering Committee of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming
<b>UPA</b>	Unión de Pequeños Agricultores y Ganaderos (Union of Small Farmers and Breeders)
<b>WCC</b>	World CSO Coordinating Committee for the United Nations Decade of Family Farming
<b>WFO</b>	World Farmers' Organisation
<b>WRF</b>	World Rural Forum

1

WE WORK TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF THE  
**UNITED NATIONS  
 DECADE OF FAMILY  
 FARMING**



**Supporting National Committees on Family Farming (NCFE) and drafting National Action Plans for the Decade (NAP)**

The WRF has been consolidating and supporting the work of the 45 National Committees on Family Farming (NCFEs) existing in the 5 continents, including the NCFEs of Spain and the Basque Country. In addition, 18 NCFEs have been directly supported to facilitate their actions in the design and implementation of public policies in their countries, training and dialogue between different actors through various projects, especially the project funded by the EU.

Within the framework of the project financed by the European Union, the Challenge Fund was launched for the NCFEs (EUR 270,000) and 12 proposals were selected from the NCFEs in Indonesia, the Philippines, Kyrgyzstan, Togo, the Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Peru, Ecuador, El Salvador and Paraguay. The 12 projects finalised in 2021 include support for the preparation and/or implementation of the National Action Plans and other public policies within the framework of the UNDFE. The NCFEs being supported in those 12 countries contributed directly to the adoption and/or preparation of the 14 Family Farming roadmaps, proposals, plans and policies:

- A National Action Plan has been approved and ratified by the government of the Philippines;
- There is a National Action Plan ratified and in the process of final adoption in Sierra Leone;
- 6 roadmaps for NAPs have been designed and are currently being implemented in the Ivory Coast, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan and Togo;
- Six initiatives and policy proposals relating to Family Farming are under way, amendment of the Law on Food Sovereignty, Family

The WRF has been consolidating and supporting the work of the 45 National Committees on Family Farming (NCFEs) existing in the 5 continents.

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**The WRF organised 3 regional exchanges between the National Committees on Family Farming, government entities and representatives from international organisations from each region.**

Farming and Rural Development and adjustment of the Law on Rural and Indigenous Women in Peru;

- **Adoption of the Organic Code on Food Sovereignty** in Ecuador;
- **Adjustment of the Laws** on Family Farming and Public Policies for Rural Women in Paraguay;
- **Implementation of the Law on Family Farming** in El Salvador.

Thanks to support from the Challenge Fund, coordinated by the WRF, these **12 NCCFs** have improved their capacity to promote and participate in developing National Action Plans and other public policies for the benefit of family farming under the UNDF (NAP), taking part in dialogues with multiple interested parties, steering committees and monitoring mechanisms with their respective governments.

In addition to the dialogue and joint work with the national FAO and IFAD offices and with the government entities, several NCCFs have made useful contacts with the European Union Delegations in their countries that have allowed the NCCFs to broaden their recognition and institutional legitimacy and mobilisation of resources to draw up and implement the NAPs.

By means of the agreement (LoA) that the WRF has signed with the FAO, it is also supporting another **3 NCCFs** (EUR 20,000) in political dialogue and development of road maps to draft (Gabon and Congo Brazzaville) and implement (Costa Rica) national action plans. Significant results have been achieved: for instance, in Costa Rica 8 agreements have been reached with municipalities and regions to implement the National Action Plan for family farming. Through the Basque Agency for Development Cooperation, the WRF supports another **3 NCCFs** (Senegal, Chad and Madagascar) to strengthen capabilities and proposals to draft family farming action plans. In 2021, the WRF continued its support work with the three organisations involved: FIFATA in Madagascar (project ends in December 2021), INADES Tchad in Chad (project ends in June 2022) and the CNCR in Senegal (project began in January 2021, due to finish in December 2022). Over the two years of implementation of these projects, a total of EUR 208,048 are going to the

project in Madagascar, EUR 148,414 to the one in Chad and EUR 329,189 to the one in Senegal.

The WRF is giving permanent and highly detailed advice to each NCCF, both throughout the process, the dialogue with the FAO, IFAD, the governments, and in relation to the contents of the plans and road maps being drafted and any plans that are already being implemented, so that they can represent a significant contribution to improve existing frameworks supporting family farming.

Furthermore, with the aim of promoting knowledge exchange on developing the NAPs as a tool to transform food systems, the WRF organised **3 regional exchanges** (Africa, 23-24 June; Latin America 29-30 Sept.; and Asia 6-7 Oct.) between the National Committees on Family Farming, government entities and representatives from international organisations, among others, from each region. The events brought together more than 160 participants from 70 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. These virtual events were held with support and participation from the European Union (Directorate-General for International Partnerships) and the FAO. In the case of Asia, the session on 7 October was jointly organised with the AFA, ARNow (ILC Asia) and the IFAD Asia-Pacific Farmers' Program (APFP), which strengthened alliances with other political dialogue platforms and organisations interested in boosting the UNDF in Asia, as well as the NCCFs.

These exchanges combined a session dealing with the UNDF as one way of transforming food systems and another session when the NCCFs and other dialogue platforms shared their ideas on strengthening the capabilities of the NCCFs, mobilising agents around the UNDF and drafting and

implementing action plans and other public policy measures within the framework of the Decade.

Following these regional exchanges, there was a **global exchange** on 22 November, as a preliminary to the Global Conference held from 23 to 26 November 2021.

The global exchange involved 290 participants from all five continents, primarily members of the National Committees for Family Farming, family farming organisations, NGOs, research centres, government entities, intergovernmental bodies, the FAO, IFAD, the EU and the ICAA, among others.

The participants agreed that the UNDF and the National Action Plans are a very valuable tool for unleashing the enormous potential of Family Farming to transform food systems. They recognised the importance of reinforcing the NCCFs in view of the important forum they offer for policy dialogue on food systems and family farming: there are 45 NCCFs throughout the world and they bring together over 2600 organisations.

They stressed that the progress achieved in implementing the UNDF was significant and that the priority for the next two-year period in the implementation of the Decade should be to develop more national action plans and to assign the resources necessary for implementing the plans already in existence.

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**Following these regional exchanges, there was a global exchange on 22 November, as a preliminary to the Global Conference held from 23 to 26 November 2021.**

The exchange meetings strengthened the capacities, the dialogue and the interplay between family farming organisations, National Committees for Family Farming, State representatives, the FAO, IFAD, the EU and other agencies, thus contributing to better collaboration and coordination on implementing the UNDFE.

Through the project with the EU, considerable progress has been made to increase the visibility of family farming worldwide, demonstrated by the **Independent Dialogue on the UNDFE and the Sustainable Food Systems within the framework of the Food Systems Summit 2021**, and above all by the broad reach of the **Global Conference**, which is discussed in detail below (p. 29). The Independent Dialogue, organised by the WRF along with the European Commission (DG INTPA) on 3 June, actively featured more than 100 participants including family farmer organisations, National Committees on Family Farming, research institutes, cooperation agencies, national offices for the FAO and IFAD, etc.



### Boosting drafting and implementing Regional Action Plans for the Decade

**The regional organisations for family farming members** of the WRF such as AFA, COPROFAM and the PDRR are developing a very active role to boost the development of UNDFE Sub-regional Action Plans within the framework of the SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation), the REAF (Specialised meeting on family farming)-Mercosur and the CAC (Central American Agro-fishing Council) - SICA. The WRF secretariat is supporting our members and these processes by means of taking part in events related to constructing these plans and devoting a space to position and boost the regional action plans in the exchanges that we have organised and that are explained in the previous point. Support from the WRF secretariat included technical assistance to the PDRR during the Family Farming Week jointly organised by the FAO, IFAD, the PDRR and SECAC for the purpose of validating action of the UNDFE sub-regional plan under construction in the framework of SICA.



### Seeking to set up other mechanisms to boost the UNDFE

**The WRF has been working on setting up a Coalition** to support family farming and implementation of the UNDFE promoted by the Governments of Costa Rica, Spain, the Dominican Republic and Switzerland. This Coalition formation was presented by the Costa Rican Ministry of Agriculture at the **UNDFE ISC meeting** (see page 14) and was well received by its members. In addition, firm support from the Governments of Costa Rica and Spain was demonstrated publicly by the Costa Rican President and the Spanish Prime Minister during the Food Systems Summit on 23 September. At the Global Conference, the WRF and the governments of Costa Rica and Spain jointly organised a high-level panel comprising representatives of the governments of Spain, Panama, Costa Rica, the Philippines and the Dominican Republic, and Gabriel Ferrero, Chairman of the Food Security Committee, as well as representatives of family farming organisations. The Coalition to support Family Farming and the implementation of the UNDFE was presented at the panel meeting and priority actions for upscaling the UNDFE were discussed.



### Ensuring good monitoring of the Decade

**The WRF continues working with the FAO**, through a letter of agreement, producing detailed mapping to ensure good monitoring of the progress of public policies in favour of family farming in 61 countries. The WRF also supported the design of tools for women empowerment in family farming and the drafting of the **report on implementation of the UNDFE 2019-2028** during the first biennial, which was submitted by the UN Secretary-General to the UN General Assembly and presented to its Second Committee in October.

The report was prepared by the joint Secretariat of FAO-IFAD for the UNDFE, in permanent contact with the WRF. The report was thereby designed on the basis of an enquiry process that included the NCFs and family farming

organisations. The WRF particularly wished to use the official report to demonstrate the enormous contribution from civil society when implementing the UNDF. Among other topics, the report acknowledges the fundamental role played by the NCCFs in promoting and developing a political environment in favour of family farming (point 97). It also recommends that efforts continue to promote political dialogue and inclusive platforms and processes for the multiple interested parties, such as the National Committees on Family Farming (NCCFs) (point 104) and that the family farming organisations should be strengthened to improve their capabilities as agents of change (point 111).



### Strengthening the role of women and young people in family farming

In July, the WRF, working with the FAO Gender team, organised **several meetings of women** in Africa, Asia and Latin America (“Strengthening women’s leadership in family farming and sustainable food systems”), in an attempt to exchange positive experiences in public policies that support women economic empowerment.

The events brought together more than 180 participants from 54 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The participants were mainly women farmers from family farming organisations, women’s organisations and from the National Committees on Family Farming (NCCFs). Other players also took part from different fields, such as women’s organisations, governmental organisations, international organisations and the FAO Gender team.

The exchange meeting strengthened the dialogue and exchange between women family farmers, the NCCFs, governmental representatives and team from the FAO and IFAD, contributing towards better collaboration and coordination in favour of rural women within the framework of the UNDF 2019-2028.

These exchanges reaffirmed that the UNDF is a very powerful tool to make progress in gender equality in family farming and the leadership role for rural women. Pillar 3 of the Global Action Plan collates the main de-

**The events brought together more than 180 participants from 54 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.**

mands of women in relation to access to land, funding, access to extension services, representation in decision-making spaces, protection against gender violence, etc. The need to reinforce actions to develop Pillar 3 was underlined.

In this respect, a project was also approved in July to increase knowledge and bring to light successful experiences of cooperatives or groups run by women or with participation from women in Africa, Asia and Latin America (see page 21).

The Global Conference on family farming and food systems organised by the WRF (see page 29) included a special session dedicated to rural women and another to rural youth. The special session on women and family farming was designed to bring together the relevant players in legislative and executive bodies and was attended by female parliamentary representatives from Colombia, the Philippines, Pakistan and Gabon, a representative of the FAO and the Director of the Directorate for Women Farmers in the Peruvian Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

It should be highlighted that rural youth was also a crosscutting theme for the various Conference Panels. This is reflected in Pillar 2, a crosscutting pillar of the UNDF Global Action Plan, dedicated to young people and generational sustainability of family farming.

Along with the FAO and different farmer organisation networks, the WRF helped to jointly organise the Young Farmers Roundtable within the World Food Forum. In addition to various experiences that were presented during the event, and different supports to facilitate the event, the WRF was represented by the UPA (Spanish Small Farmers Union).

The WRF, together with a foresight agency, has carried out a study of public policies dedicated to rural youth, including an analysis of the challenges facing Basque rural youth and a comparative examination of rural youth policies implemented in 4 countries (Australia, Canada, Chile, Uruguay) and in the EU. This study, which will be disseminated shortly, allows for the sharing of measures to address the challenges facing rural youth, particularly with regard to generational renewal. It was presented at the event on the Potential for Young Farmers in Sustainable Food Systems organised by the WRF and CRAF Euskadi (Basque Country Regional Committee for Family Farming) on 16 December 2021 (see p. 32).

The main point emerging from the study is the need for **integrated strategies and a holistic approach to family farming and young people in the sector**, the importance of integrating training, including business training and mentoring, and support for finance. Exchanges and training in other environments and countries were emphasised.



## Stimulating the Civil Society World Coordination Committee for the UNDFE (WCC)

The WCC met in April to take stock of the UNDFE implementation situation, contribute to the design of the Global Conference organised by the WRF, and to the [Guide to International and Regional Instruments to Defend and Promote the Interests and Rights of Family Farmers](#) recently published by the WRF.

This is a study carried out with the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights within the framework of the International Land Coalition Family Farming Initiative (CBI2-ILC). It compiles numerous international, regional and national instruments that, from different angles, recognise and protect family farmers and their vital role in tackling some of the most important world challenges right now, including resilient food systems, rural development, climate change and women empowerment. The WCC agreed to draft a [declaration](#) that has been disseminated together with the Guide, calling for the faithful compliance with these international, regional and national agreements in defence of family farming in an interconnected way, so that they reinforce each other and are taken into account when building and implementing public policies for family farming.



## Active participation in the UNDFE International Steering Committee (UNDFE ISC)

The UNDFE Steering Committee met virtually on 6 and 7 September. The Committee carried out an evaluation of the first two years of UNDFE implementation, presenting the progress report for 2019 and 2020 featuring the main milestones of approving the 8 National Action Plans (NAPs) for the Decade, the on-going processes for drafting the NAPs in around 50 countries and the strong mobilisation of stakeholders, particularly through the NCFs.

## The committee made an assessment of the first two years of UNDFE implementation by presenting the progress report for 2019 and 2020.

< The WRF organised and facilitated the civil society meeting prior to the ISC that took place on 3 September, where civil society organisations agreed on a rotation system for the post of second Vice-Chair of the ISC and the creation of the figure of deputy second Vice-Chair, to strengthen the participation of the FOs in the Steering Committee.

It was thus agreed that LVC would serve as Second Vice-President for the next 27 months and then hand over to WFO. The WRF would maintain its strong presence as the Deputy to the Second Vice-Chair.

The meeting also addressed the importance of Communication Campaigns to raise awareness on the UNDFE (Campaigns where the WRF was invited to take part in coordination, alongside many other member-organisations of the WRF), of exchanges carried out concerning women and young people, of the Guide to International and Regional Instruments to defend Family Farming by the WRF, or of the Global Conference on Family Farming (see page 29).



## Giving visibility to the Decade on different platforms

This year, a great effort has been made in joint communication activities to give visibility to the UNDFE and family farming.

For example, there has been continuity and consolidation for the communication campaign framed within the collaboration agreement with Slow Food. It proposes making and broadcasting 3 videos, two of which (on “[Access to and control over the land](#)” and on “[Seeds, biodiversity and climate change](#)”) are already available while the third (on “Chains of value and local markets”) will be disseminated shortly.

On the other hand, the WRF has been invited to take part in the Communication Campaigns on Family Farming that are being developed in Asia, Africa

**Important work has been done this year to give visibility to family farming by producing many communication items framed within the Global Conference on Family Farming.**

< and Latin America with support from the FAO. In addition to the regional organisations associated with the WRF, the WRF will shortly take part in the meetings for these Campaigns, ensuring correct flow of information and search for synergies between activities.

Furthermore, important work has been done this year to give visibility to family farming by producing many communication items framed within the Global Conference on Family Farming held in late November (see page 20). This conference had a strong communication and dissemination aspect, using **videos, infographics, podcasts and other visual elements** widely broadcast on a whole host of platforms.

More generally, it is worth mentioning that the **website dedicated to the UNDF** has continued to maintain an important flow of visits, becoming a point of reference for information enquiries on the Decade and on the National committees for Family Farming (NCF). The WRF keeps it up to date with the latest news and progress from the UNDF.

Social media has continued to grow, achieving a community of over 5000 followers on Facebook.



[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FAMILYFARMINGCAMPAIGN](https://www.facebook.com/familyfarmingcampaign)  
[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/WORLDRURALFORUM](https://www.facebook.com/worldruralforum)  
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2

## WE BOOST FARMING COOPERATIVES THROUGH THE AGRICOOPDS INITIATIVE

Work continues with the networks of family farmers associated with the WRF to boost the AgriCOOPDS Initiative, which attempts to promote cooperatives associated with family farming and recognise the contribution made by cooperatives to comply with the 17 SDGs.

In this respect, in 2021 the WRF has worked with Konfekoop and Unesco-Etxea to **develop a self-diagnosis computer tool** on the contribution of Basque cooperatives to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), KoopDS. This refers to a questionnaire that helps Konfekoop cooperatives measure their contribution to each of the SDG. Following the questionnaire, a report is published with the results and the recommendations, to provide better support to the cooperative in its work towards the SDGs. A personalised press release is also issued so that the cooperative can make its contribution visible, while providing information to widen the work on SDGs for any willing cooperatives. Konfekoop officially presented the KoopDS tool on 25 November 2021.

**In 2021, the WRF developed an online self-diagnosis tool adapted to the context of Basque cooperatives.**

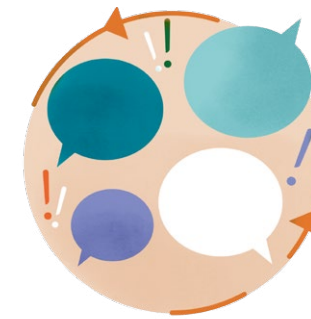
Internationally, the WRF presented to the 2021 Forest and Farm Facility - FFF Call, along with the associated supranational family farming organisations from Asia (AFA), Central Africa (PROPAC), South and East Africa (ESAFF), Central America (PDRR), South America (COPROFAM) and the Africa rural women's network (REFACOF), a project to raise awareness on, and thereby strengthen, the cooperatives and women's associations in these regions. This project was approved, as the only proposal in the international field to be supported by the FFF, and it is being developed (from June 2021 to June 2022) (see page 21).



3

WE WORK TO

# STRENGTHEN our MEMBER entities



## Boosting and facilitating their participation in exchanges

The WRF makes a special effort to encourage and facilitate the participation of its partners in exchanges organised by the WRF or partner organisations, the co-organisation of events and their collaboration in key roles such as moderators or rapporteurs during exchanges.

This year, the WRF was strengthened in the organisation of virtual exchanges, with a high level of participation in the more than 50 hours dedicated to the exchange, which brought together the different key actors for the work of the WRF. The WRF managed broad participation in each organised event, with representation from many countries in each region, as many as 70 countries in some cases.

**The parity between men and women participation in the different regional events was 60% men and 40% women.**

We can highlight the special effort to promote participation from women in the different regional events, with certain parity between men and women (general 60% men and 40% women). In the women's meetings that took place in each region, participation was high and reached 85% of women.

For informative purposes, the list of exchanges carried out in 2021 is given below:

FRAMEWORK	EXCHANGE	CO-ORGANISED	DATE
DECADE	3 regional exchanges and 1 global exchange NCCF session	LAC NCCF	SEPT
		Africa NCCF	JUN
		Asia NCCF	OCT
		Global exchange NCCF + other players	NOV
	Independent dialogue. The UNDF's potential to transform sustainable, resilient, inclusive and viable food systems.	Global exchange within the framework of the Sustainable Food Systems Summit	European Union

FRAMEWORK	EXCHANGE	CO-ORGANISED	DATE	
DECADE	Global Conference on Family Farming and Sustainable Food Systems	4-Day Global Conference. The main 3 panels were coordinated by WRF members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhancing sustainable production of diversified, safe, and nutritious food by family farmers and its contribution to sustainable livelihood</li> <li>Promoting inclusive value chains and access to markets for family farmers</li> <li>Public policies increasing the participation of family farming in food systems</li> </ul>		NOV
		Special Session: Rural Youth	IFAD	NOV
		Special Session: Women's Leadership and Family Farming	FAO	NOV
		Special session: Land tenure rights	ILC	NOV
		Special Session: Indigenous Peoples and Family Farming	FFF-FAO indigenous peoples unit	NOV
		High-level panel: Broadening the United Nations Decade of Family Farming	Coalition of the Countries supporting the Family Farming Decade	NOV
		The role of communication in family farming	ComDev Asia, Yenkasa and Onda rural	NOV
	3 Exchanges: Strengthening skills and leadership for women	Africa Exchange		JUL
		LAC Exchange		JUL
		Asia Exchange		JUL
	UNDFE ISC	3 meetings	FAO, IFAD	JAN-MAY-SEPT
	CFS Side event	1 Side Event ( <i>Implementing the UN Decade of family farming (UNDFE) to address COVID 19 and achieve resilient and sustainable food systems</i> )	Permanent Mission of Costa Rica, Per. Mis. Of Switzerland,FAO, IFAD, WRF, LVC	FEB

FRAMEWORK	EXCHANGE	CO-ORGANISED	DATE	
DECADE	Terra Madre	1 exchange within the framework of the UNDFE and CBI 2 <i>"Opportunities for the UNDFE to strengthen resilience and sustainability of family farmers"</i>	Slow Food International	APR
	Youth	1 exchange: <i>"The potential of young farmers in sustainable food systems Exchange on Young People and FF"</i>	CRAF Euskadi	DEC
	WCC	1 meeting		APR
AGRICOOOPDS	Self-diagnosis tool	2 Basque Country Cooperative workshops to adapt the tool.	Konfekoop and Unesco-Etxea	MAR-MAY

What stands out is the diversity of stakeholders the WRF is capable of assembling, ranging all the way from academics to governments, with, in between, all the regional and global farming organisations and the offices of the various international bodies, thereby generating learning and knowledge of each other, creating trust and thus establishing networks to work together.

The WRF Secretariat also took part in over thirty events organised by member entities, putting the emphasis on approaches, priorities and measures to strengthen family farming.



## Carrying out various joint initiatives

2021 has been marked by various initiatives devised and carried out by working with our members.

### WOMEN AND COOPERATIVES PROJECT

In addition to the aforementioned exchanges, another project was drawn up in 2021 to *"Strengthening the capacities of FFPOs to promote policy*

and legal frameworks conducive to the economic empowerment and livelihood resilience of rural women through associativism and cooperativism, seizing the opportunity of the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028 (UNDFFF)", funded by the Forest and Farm Facility (FFF). This project is developed by the WRF in collaboration with 6 regional member organisations, within the framework of the 2021 FFF Call. After signing the LoA with FFF, the project was set up in September.

The project consists of designing useful, effective and adaptable tools to strengthen the inter-sectoral, multi-stakeholder political processes, defending the economic empowerment of women through associations and cooperatives on the agendas of governments and organisations. The diversity of cooperatives and women's groups in empowerment of women in farming will be highlighted. The project is developed through two main components:

- i. communication activities;
- ii. knowledge exchange activities to promote the role of cooperatives in sustainable and inclusive development of women in farming.

The project will revolve around three main products:

- i. compiling and analysing experiences and best practice from rural women cooperatives or associations,
- ii. organising two on-line seminars presenting the compiled experiences;
- iii. drafting and disseminating a document on *Lessons Learnt*, based on the previous work.

The project focuses on communication to strengthen the organisations' communication and dissemination skills through this initiative. In this sense, a communication team has been created, which regroups the focal points of each organisation participating in the project. That strengthens the links between WRF member organisations and their work as allies across the four continents they represent.

**The project consists of designing effective and adaptable tools to strengthen the inter-sectoral, political processes, through associations and cooperatives on the agendas of governments and organisations.**

## ◀ **JOINT DESIGN OF THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE**

**The WRF emphasised that the Global Conference should be as inclusive as possible, both in its development and in its preparation.**

The WRF emphasised that the Global Conference (see section below) should be as inclusive as possible, both in its development and in its preparation. To do so, it invited its member entities to contribute to its organisation. The three discussion panels were thus organised via an advisory committee comprising WRF member entities who defined the concept documents and therefore the framework for the discussions, and proposed evaluation of the programme, speakers, and methodology and took an active part either as speakers or as facilitators.

WRF members, particularly board members, were assigned to open or conclude various Conference sessions, thus presenting WRF positions emerging from a variety of organisations and regions.

## **PARTICIPATION IN THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE MAGAZINE THE FAMILY FARMING BAROMETER**

The WRF is invited by its member SOS FAIM to participate in the steering committee of the magazine **Barometer of Family Farming**. In December, a webinar was co-organised to present the magazine: "Creating shared knowledge for family farming", with the participation of the WRF as speaker and moderator.



**Relying on regional organisations as support for the WRF Secretariat**

**In 2021, the path that began** two years ago continued to contract the services of the WRF's member organisations to develop the tasks of the WRF Secretariat in each region. They know their region

best and have developed various working relationships with governments, regional and national offices of international agencies and other family farmers' organisations at national and local level. These contracts can also be used to strengthen the associated entities and increase their implication in the WRF common project.

This year, the agreement with AFA has been renewed in Asia and with PDRR in Central America and the Dominican Republic and new contracts have been signed with COPROFAM in the extended Mercosur and with PROPAC in Central Africa. These contracts seek support from the regional organisations in promoting the UNDFP and the National Action Plans, broadcasting and participation in the AgriCOOPDS initiative or WRF visibility, among other tasks.

Regular monitoring involves progress reports and meetings between the Secretariat team and each of the organisations.



### Setting up a strengthening programme for the associated entities

**The WRF has designed a programme to:** i) help design the economic sustainability strategies for the WRF member organisations in the mid-long term and ii) strengthen their communication skills. The programme will begin shortly.

In this respect, the WRF through the strengthening programme has been working for several years to offer its associated entities the option of paying its fees in kind.

Consequently, the WRF has reinforced its membership policy in 2021. Out of its 49 member entities, 18 are paying their membership in kind this year, including two with a mixture of cash and kind.

### This has allowed the WRF to support the entities in how they consider and develop these activities, such as attending meetings with regional governments to establish the National Action Plans.



This joint work has allowed the WRF to support the entities in how they consider and develop these activities. They vary widely: attending meetings to take part in the sessions with regional governments to localise the National Action Plans, consultancy and skills training for cooperatives and associations of small producers, incidence activities with governments, running studies, design and dissemination of documents, guides, tools to improve small producers' practices and rural development, among many others. They are bound to different lines of action in the WRF Strategic Plan, such as line 1, strengthening the work of political incidence in favour of family farming through the UNDFP; line 2, promoting cooperativism/associativism in Family Farming, through the AgriCOOPDS campaign; line 6, promoting the visibility of FF, sustainable rural development and the SDGs.

4

WE SEEK TO GENERATE AND STRENGTHEN OUR

**ALLIANCES AND COLLABORATIONS**

Slow Food and the WRF have set up a joint communication campaign on “*Family farming as the basis of food systems*” in an attempt to raise awareness on the UNDDF 2019-2028, focusing on the land, the multiple functions of family farming (economic, environmental, social and cultural), viable, inclusive and sustainable food systems and their contribution to the SDG.

The campaign includes two lines of activities:

- i. 3 videos: focused on “**Access to and control over the land**”, “**Seeds, biodiversity and climate change**” and “Chains of value and local markets”.
- ii. 1 international web seminar on UNDDF that was held within the framework of the Terra Madre Festival on 8 April.

< On the other hand, after the signing in 2020 of the Declaration of Intent between the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation (MAEC) and the WRF to promote the fulfilment of SDG 2 “Zero Hunger”, the collaboration between the WRF and the MAEC has been strengthened in 2021. The Ministry included family farming as one of the three main areas of Sustainable Food Systems in the discussions held in the framework of the official Spanish independent dialogue on the Food Systems Summit on 3 June, in which the WRF actively participated.

**The WRF continuously nurtures its partnerships with key actors at global, regional and national levels. It maintains a Collaboration Agreement with the FAO, the Initiative Based on ILC Commitments or permanent dialogue with the IFAD.**

Furthermore, the WRF has worked jointly with the MAEC to shape the Coalition to strengthen family farming and actions in favour of the UNDDF 2019-2028.

During the Food Systems summit, the Spanish Prime Minister explicitly mentioned the importance of the Decade and the Family Farming Coalition.

In October, the WRF met the Director of the AECID to work on a specific agreement for the AECID to support some of the WRF activities.

The WRF continuously nurtures its partnerships with key actors at global, regional and national levels. It thereby maintains a Collaboration Agreement with the FAO, the Initiative Based on ILC Commitments or permanent dialogue with the IFAD. New joint work projects have begun with other departments of the FAO (Gender) and IFAD (Youth).

The alliance with the EU (DG INTPA) works on a daily basis, through constant dialogue, reciprocal invitations to events, etc.

The WRF supports its associated entities and the NCCFs to access these entities, which is highly appreciated.

Through special sessions jointly organised, the Global Conference on Family Farming organised by the WRF in November strengthened the links with many associated bodies, such as the FAO, IFAD, the ILC, the Forest and Farm Facility (FFF), the FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit, and regional communication platforms (see table above).

5

WE ARE ORGANISING

**THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE**

Within the framework of the project funded by the European Union, the WRF worked hard to organise the **Global Conference for Family Farming and Sustainable Food Systems** held between 23 and 26 November.

The Conference was the result of joint reflection and organisation involving the work of 25 entities who designed the basic content through conference advisory committees, and of over a dozen organisations which made their knowledge available to the Conference via podcasts and infographics which can be accessed at <https://conferencia.ruralforum.org/en/>.

The Global Conference achieved a wide audience for its discussions and very extensive participation which included many governments and representatives of international bodies. The conference had more than 800 people registering for the event, participating throughout the 4-day conference, and more than 90 speakers.

The Conference generated a large amount of **informative material**: those that stand out for us are the infographics (on women's leadership, rural youth, indigenous peoples and land tenure rights), the podcasts recorded by WRF associate entities on three topics (sustainable production, market access and generating added value, and public policies to strengthen farming) and the graphic recording of sessions.

**The Conference was the result of joint reflection and organisation involving the work of 25 entities who designed the basic content through advisory thematic committees.**

The design and organisation of the Global Conference was based on a participatory and inclusive process to define its contents and proposals through 3 hardworking advisory thematic committees, each dealing with a thematic area, drafting the documents and focusing the 3 main debates (same as the podcasts). There were also special sessions on land (organised jointly with the International Land Coalition (ILC)), women (organised jointly with the FAO), young people (organised jointly with IFAD), indigenous peoples (organised jointly with the Forest and Farm Facility and the FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit) and the role of communication (organised jointly with the FAO and regional communication platforms).

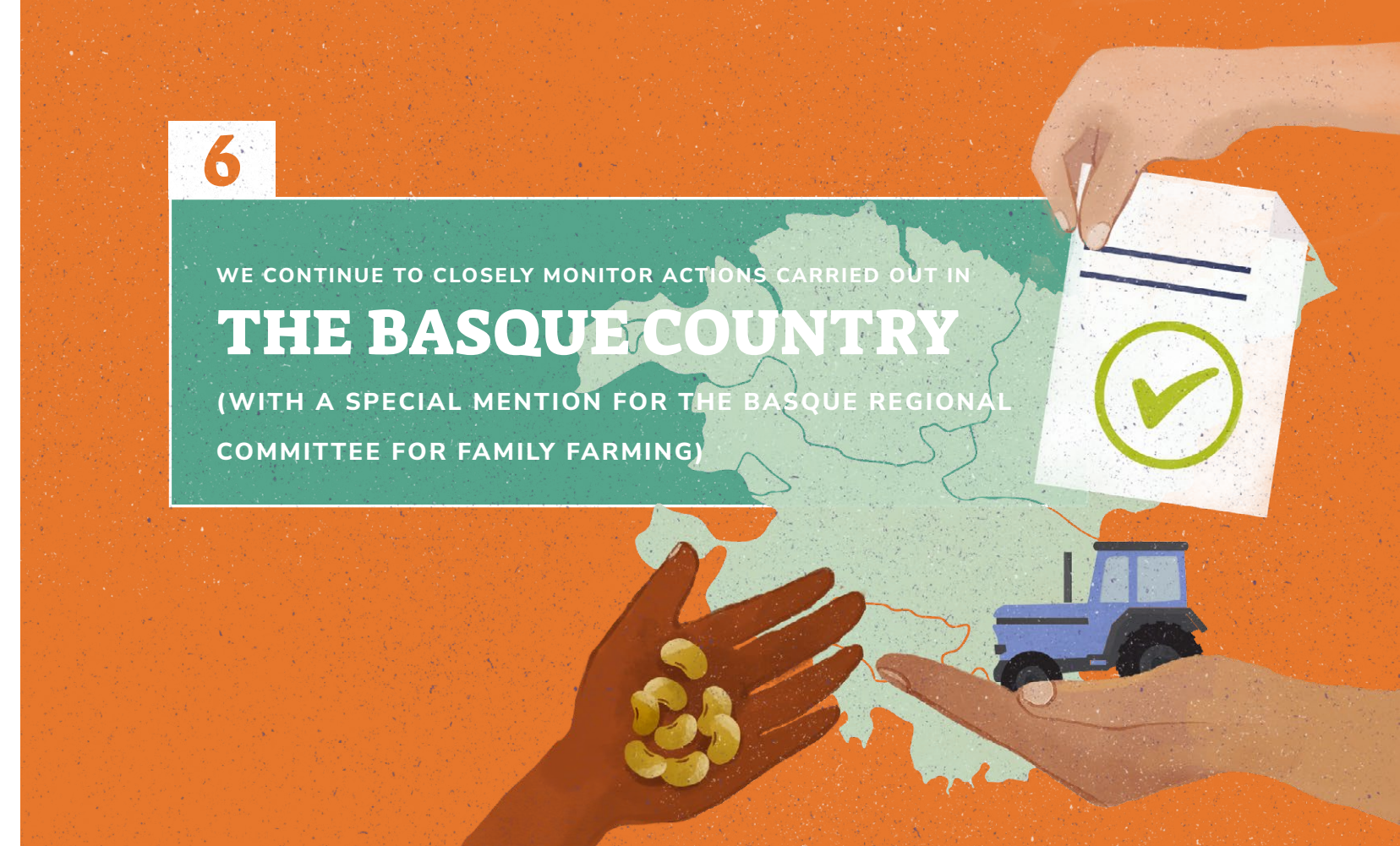
In addition, a high-level panel, co-organised by the Ministries of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica, and of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain, prompted further progress on the commitments of the countries for the implementation of the Decade and the Family Farming

Coalition, an element that will undoubtedly be strategic to focus international collaboration for the strengthening of family farming as a fundamental axis of development.

It is also worth mentioning the pre-conference event of the National Committees of Family Farming, held on 22 November, which contributed important discussions to advance national policies in favour of family farming.

We can conclude that this was a multilateral conference marked by the key role played by family farming organisations, the strong emphasis on communication and dissemination and the focus on analysing the keys to making a success of the Decade of Family Farming, thus strengthening family farming in every region across the world. A Conference considered as a high-level platform, which served to increase the focus on family farming as part of the path to achieving sustainable, resilient, inclusive and viable food systems within the framework of UNDFP 2019-2028 and to encourage practical commitments for the benefit of the 2500 million people across the world who depend on family farming. Several important considerations emerged from the Conference:

- **A recognition that space has been made** on the international agenda for seeing family farming as central to food systems (the Family Farming model is the model to promote because it is the most fair, inclusive and sustainable, the one that generates well-being for people and for the planet, healthy people, healthy planet). The fight needs to be relentless because we need to focus not only on discussion but also on implementation and on resources: there is a lack of finance, investment and technical assistance.
- **The UNDFP provides a great opportunity** to achieve common commitments, implement road maps, and set framework rules and legislation, reviewing those already in existence. Family Farming requires differential policies and a new generation of differential policies incorporating territorial, environmental and nutritional issues, etc. is in sight.
- **Family farming organisations have gained powerful allies** but we must create new alliances with key players ensuring that family farming is considered in environmental, food, social, consumer, etc. policies. Family farming must be part of these agendas, with an important redefining of its role.



The WRF continues to offer close support to the Basque Country Regional Committee for Family Farming's activities (CRAF Euskadi). Intensive work was carried out in order to reach a consensus within CRAF on its two priority lines of action and to transmit them to the outside world: (i) contribution to public policies and (ii) awareness raising/communication.

In this regard, the WRF has encouraged holding several CRAF meetings with the MPS in charge of Agriculture in the three Provincial Governments, to reap wide support from the Basque Public Administrations.

In this respect, meetings have been held with the Gipuzkoa Provincial Government Department of Economic Promotion, Tourism and the Rural Environment (21 April), with the Alava Provincial Government Department of Agriculture (27 April) and with the Bizkaia Provincial Government Department of Sustainability and Natural Environment (14 June).

In addition to meetings with the Provincial Governments, talks have also been held with the Basque Parliament Commission for Economic Development and Innovation (16 March), that was presided over by the President of the Commission and participants included political groups with

parliamentary representation. In these talks, a wide consensus was reached on the need to defend this territory's own farming model and the Basque Parliament political groups expressed their wish to work jointly on the actions undertaken by the CRAF.

Beyond talks with public administrations, the CRAF has continued to work intensely to define the Communication and Awareness-raising Campaign on Family Farming in the Basque Country, that is finally led by the Basque Government Deputy Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Policy, with the permanent collaboration of the CRAF. The Campaign is targeting young people and portrays family farmers as activists who care for the planet and produce healthy food, two of Basque youth's greatest concerns.

The Campaign was launched in December using a variety of materials - radio slots, television slots, public transport posters. The slogan is "Basque Family Farming: growing a better world together". The Decade of Family Farming has thus taken practical shape in the Basque country for the first time.

Also in the Basque Country, right in the midst of the complicated situation created by COVID-19, the WRF and CRAF Euskadi organised a joint event relating to the United Nations Decade of Family Farming. It was a one-day meeting on the *Potential of Young Farmers in Sustainable Food Systems* held at the Euskalduna Centre on 16 December, the objective being to relate the international agenda to the Basque country and to contribute to defining some proposals to help meet the challenge of renewal generation in Basque farming.

The meeting was attended by some 80 people, including the Basque Government Directorate for Agriculture and Cattle Farming, deputies and representatives of the three provincial governments, representatives of the joint FAO-IFAD Secretariat, the Rural Development Directorate in the European Commission, Spanish agri-food cooperatives, KONFEKOOP, the Spanish Small Farmers Union (UPA), Lursail S.L. and the HAZI Foundation, and young farmers who are members of the Basque farming unions, EHNE Bizkaia, EHNE Gipuzkoa, ENBA Bizkaia, ENBA Gipuzkoa and UAGA.

It offered an opportunity for Basque members present and international representatives on line to consider and discuss the particular challenges facing young farmers and the need for measures, policies and programmes which recognise their potential and support their key role in transforming



**The CRAF has continued to work intensely to define the Communication and Awareness-raising Campaign on Family Farming in the Basque Country.**

food systems and ensuring a sustainable future in rural areas. The meeting also provided an opportunity to draw attention to the Awareness-raising Campaign on Family Farming.

In another sense, work is continuing on the Todas Juntas/Guztiok Batera initiative promoted from UNESCO Etxea in close collaboration with AMUGE (Basque Country Gypsy Women's Association), the Basque Youth Council (EGK), the World Rural Forum (WRF), Women in Diversity and GEHITU (Basque LGBTI Association).

This initiative aims to raise awareness in society and include in public policies the outlooks of vulnerable groups as the focus of change that we wish to achieve to get sustainable, fair and equal development with a rights and gender perspective, within the framework of the 2030 Agenda. The WRF brings the voice of day labourers into the project.

In 2021, the WRF took part in various activities for Todas Juntas: a multistakeholder forum, a side-event in the High-Level Political Forum on sustainable development (HLPF), launch of the Todas Juntas report and internal training.



**This initiative aims to raise awareness in society and include in public policies the outlooks of vulnerable groups as the focus of change that we wish to achieve within the framework of the 2030 Agenda.**