



JOINT SDG FUND – FIRST FUNDING ROUND FOR JOINT ACTIVITIES IN SOCIAL  
PROTECTION AND JOBS IN SUPPORT OF THE WORLD BANK COMPASS AND  
GLOBAL ACCELERATOR– M-GA TRACK

UN JOINT SDG FUND  
RSR-ADSP UTF M-GA WINDOW

**Guidance Note, Round 1**



## 1. BACKGROUND

The Multistakeholder Engagement to implement the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions and the World Bank Social Protection and Jobs Compass is pleased to announce its Round 1 Call for Proposals. The objective of this call is to foster increased collaboration and collective action of development partners and under national leadership in funding catalytic actions that support the extension of social protection and contribute to creating decent jobs and employment in sustainable and future-oriented sectors.

Against the backdrop of large coverage gaps in social protection, decent work deficits, and recurring and compounding collective shocks, the **Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection (GA)** aims to fast-track actions to extend social protection to some of the 4 billion excluded people and contribute to create millions of decent jobs in sustainable and future-oriented sectors. The **World Bank Social Protection and Jobs Compass** is closely aligned to these objectives, aiming to achieve equity, build resilience, and extend sustainable economic opportunities to all. Both strive to forge concerted action among international partners to strengthen national ownership and apply a systems approach to social protection and employment creation. Joint actions, policymaking, and programming can help achieve these objectives, which are embedded in our respective efforts to achieve Universal Social Protection by 2030 and Decent Work.

The **Multistakeholder Engagement to implement the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions and the World Bank Social Protection and Jobs Compass ("M-GA" thereafter)** is an integrated technical and financing mechanism that ensures collaboration among UN organizations, International Financial Institutions, and further partners who show interest in advancing the joint goals of the GA and the World Bank's Social Protection and Jobs Compass. The M-GA will support increased collaboration and collective action, under national leadership, and with coordinated support from ILO, World Bank, other UN agencies, development banks, existing platforms such as the Global Partnership on Universal Social Protection (USP2030), as well as other relevant partners.

The M-GA is built on existing funding mechanisms from the UN and the World Bank. Funding is channeled through two separate windows: i) the UN Joint SDG Fund on Decent Jobs and Universal Social Protection in support of the Global Accelerator, and ii) the World Bank's Rapid Social Response – Adaptive and Dynamic Social Protection Umbrella Trust Fund (RSR-ADSP UTF). Coordinated advisory and management teams will support effective action. In this way, country partners have a single point of entry, and can benefit from harmonized diagnostics, programming, and financing under the M-GA. By better connecting the UN and IFIs, the M-GA can also contribute to technical assistance, paving the way for future operational funding through the WB and other IFIs.

## 2. OBJECTIVES AND AREAS OF INTERVENTION TO BE SUPPORTED

The Joint SDG Fund Funding Round on Decent Jobs and Universal Social Protection and the RSR-ADSP UTF M-GA Window share the same overall objectives, to provide catalytic funding for joint action at the country level, to build national capacity for identifying binding constraints and entry points for investment, develop integrated employment and social protection programmes and policies, implement, monitor and evaluate progress to ensure that they contribute to achieving national objectives, and mobilize domestic and international resources to create decent jobs and expand social protection.

The Joint SDG Fund Window and the RSR-ADSP UTF M-GA Window will support the following development objectives<sup>1</sup>, aligned with the three pillars of the Global Accelerator<sup>2</sup> and the three principles of the World Bank's Social Protection and Jobs Compass<sup>3</sup>.

### **Objective 1: Integrated and well-coordinated national public policies and strategies**

- **Support the diagnostics, stocktaking, and policy appraisals** of existing national social protection, employment and just transition strategies, policies, and schemes where they exist. Diagnostics and policy appraisals will include both existing publications and new analyses/data collection and reflections of specific constraints and requirements to achieve national and global goals, including for especially disadvantaged and excluded people, such as those living with disabilities.
- **Support partner countries in the identification and development of integrated policies, strategies, and programmes**, which may include policies and measures on skills development, social protection, job placement and information, support to sustainable enterprises, access to finance and markets, and just transitions for all, to eliminate inequalities and exclusion.

### **Objective 2: National frameworks for adequate and sustainable financing of social protection and employment interventions**

- **Support existing and new financing strategies** at country level to improve the use of existing resources and to mobilize domestic and international resources in a sustainable and equitable way. This includes a **range of financing options** such as the promotion and enforcement of progressive taxation, equitable fiscal policies, and the reform of inequitable and inefficient subsidy programs; the extension of contributory social protection and social insurance programs to workers and enterprises in the informal economy; pro-employment and

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<sup>1</sup> These development objectives also contribute to USP2030.

<sup>2</sup> The three pillars of the Global Accelerator are: 1) integrated and evidence-based national strategies and policies, 2) integrated financing combining domestic resources and international financial support and 3) enhanced multilateral cooperation).

<sup>3</sup> The three principles of the World Bank's Social Protection and Jobs Compass are: to achieve greater equity, to build resilience among systems and households, and to extend economic opportunity to all.



social protection results based budgeting; promoting private investment aligned with the SDGs; and mobilizing ODA and concessional financing, including debt relief initiatives.

### **Objective 3: Strengthened national social protection and employment programmes and systems**

- **Build robust, sustainable, adaptive, and responsive national social protection systems** through national social dialogue that ensure income security throughout the life cycle, provide support to people when and where it is needed in order to sustain consumption and human capital investment, and protect people equitably across space, circumstances, and time to ensure households and communities can withstand both long-term developments and short-term shocks.
- **Support at the country level for the development and implementation of jobs and employment policies and programmes through analysis, technical assistance and dialogue** to facilitate access to decent work opportunities, to support national partners overcome structural constraints to productive employment, improve employability, and support the green transition.

### **Objective 4: Strengthened national ownership and consensus building.**

- **Support national dialogue** for the development of national roadmaps, involving national policymakers, ODA partners, UN agencies, IFIs, social partners, the private sector, and civil society, giving a voice to women, young people, those living with disabilities, and others to enhance representation, relevance and implementation of national priorities and commitments.
- **Provide coordinated technical and policy advice** as needed to clients on social protection, decent jobs and just transitions.
- **Support the adoption of a common results framework** and data collection and reporting mechanisms to track results, performance and impact.<sup>4</sup>

### **Objective 5: Support knowledge generation and dialogue at the country, regional or global level**

- **Support knowledge generation** at the country level to fill gaps in practice, evidence and understanding.
- **Develop evidence-based tools and knowledge products at the country, regional or global levels** through country operations and coordinated research, innovation and learning, to improve joint diagnostics, strategies and roadmaps, to build robust, sustainable and universal social protection and employment systems, to design resilient, adaptive, and scalable programmes, and to provide options for sustainable financing.

### 3. PROCEDURES FOR APPLICATION, SELECTION AND RESOURCE ALLOCATION

The M-GA First Funding Round will be open to an initial set of GA pathfinder<sup>4</sup> countries which have committed to expanding or strengthening social protection systems, creating decent jobs or facilitating just transitions. **Note that for this first round there are sufficient resources to finance activities in up to 9 of the 14 pathfinder countries.** Those not selected for this round will be invited to apply to subsequent funding rounds for support.

The successful Joint proposals will receive **up to USD 500,000 by grant**, for a period up to 24 months from both the Joint SDG Fund and the World Bank Window together, and the teams must specify the amount requested under each agency (USD 250,000 max per window). The RSR-ADSP UTF and the Joint SDG Fund reserve the right to make changes to this allocation if appropriate, based on recommendations from M-GA management team and as approved by the respective Steering Committees.

**A single, combined proposal is prepared jointly by the respective implementing country teams (WB and Participating UN Organizations) including representatives from partner governments or agencies.** Proposals must include workplans, outputs and budgets that clearly state responsibilities, division of labour and allocation of resources to activities, implementing partners and collaboration structures. Proposals must be endorsed by the Government, and consistent with national development priorities and agreed upon on a non-objection basis by the Global Accelerator National Steering Committee where it exists. Technical assistance and other resources to support this process may be provided/organized on demand by the M-GA Management Team.<sup>5</sup>

At the country level, a JP Steering Committee comprised of Government representative, RC and WB country manager/director, will rely on existing tri-partite governance structures at the country level, including that of the GA where it exists, which will organize dedicated M-GA meetings to review M-GA related documents and decisions.

#### 3.1 SELECTION CRITERIA

##### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

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<sup>4</sup> The initial list of GA pathfinder countries (those accepted on or before 27 February 2024) is comprised of Albania, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Colombia, Indonesia, Malawi, Namibia, Paraguay, Rwanda, Senegal, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Philippines and Nepal. Pathfinder countries have made a high-level commitment to the Global Accelerator through an official letter coming from the Head of State or lead Ministries to the UN Secretary General.

<sup>5</sup> Technical assistance to support teams both to develop and to implement their proposals may be assessed on demand by the M-GA Management Team and provided through available resources depending on technical area (consultancies, implementing organizations' staff, staff from other technical organizations, etc).

Country teams must prepare one proposal that meets all the following eligibility criteria:

- The Proposal must be sent using the attached template. No title, section headings, text, tables, footnotes, endnotes, etc. in the proposal template must be deleted or altered.
- The Proposal must be developed jointly the World Bank, participating UN organizations and other partners depending on context, demand, relative capacities and strengths of participating agencies, with **two** PUNOs (Participating UN Organizations) involved;
- The Proposal must demonstrate the endorsement of Government and consistency with national development strategies;
- The Proposal must be guided by existing coordination structures involving government, social partners, civil society and development partners, as well as be agreed upon on a non-objection basis by the GA National Steering Committee where it exists;
- The Proposal is clearly aligned with the objectives and qualifying activities of the M-GA stated above;
- The Proposal must promote a systems approach to designing, developing and implementing solutions, and therefore benefit from the convening authority of the country;
- Only one joint proposal per country will be considered.

**Non-compliance with the requirements specified above will result in the rejection of the proposal.**

## **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

Joint Programmes' proposals will be reviewed based on the following criteria:

### **Relevance and impact**

- Countries must be part of the initial list of 14 GA pathfinder countries;<sup>6</sup>
- Coherence with national and sub-national development strategies and objectives;
- Clear alignment with the objectives and qualifying activities of the M-GA stated above;
- A Whole-of-Government engagement with national, local, regional governments and other local administrative bodies and public service providers as key partners and beneficiaries of the proposals as adequate;
- Leverage engagement of diverse stakeholders and coordination structures involving government, social partners, private sector and civil society, and promote a systems approach to designing, developing and implementing solutions, and therefore benefit from the convening authority of the country
- Potential to contribute to increasing the number of people covered by social protection programs and engaged in decent and productive jobs;

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<sup>6</sup> This restriction will be relaxed in future funding rounds.

- Complementarity and identified synergies with other relevant initiatives implemented by governments, development partners, and other stakeholders to show the proposal's catalytic potential;
- Mobilise additional financing and/or leverage existing funding;
- Demonstration of PUNO-WB collaboration additionality;
- Mainstreaming gender equality and confronting other sources of inequitable access to social protection services and constraints to employment.

### **Operational capacity and preparedness**

- Outlines the roles and responsibilities of the Resident Coordinator/Resident Coordinator Office, Participating UN Organizations (PUNOs), the World Bank, national counterparts and other relevant stakeholders;
- Readiness and capacity of the World Bank, PUNOs and national counterparts to immediately launch the Joint Programme;
- The feasibility of the proposed workplan (realistic deliverables and outputs);
- Yield a significant impact in a two-year timeframe;
- Adequacy and justification of the budget and cost-effectiveness of the proposed approach to achieve the desired outcome;
- Adequate monitoring arrangements and how results and impact are measured for assessing the extent to which objectives are met;
- Identification of any critical risks and appropriate mitigation measures.

## **3.2 SELECTION PROCESS**

### **SUBMISSION**

- The proposal must be signed by a senior representative of the Government of the partner country, confirming alignment with national development strategies.
- The proposal must be signed and submitted by the UN Resident Coordinator to the Secretariat of the Joint SDG Fund by 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024 to [jointsdgifund@un.org](mailto:jointsdgifund@un.org), Cc-ing [nenad.rava@un.org](mailto:nenad.rava@un.org), [maya.marquez@un.org](mailto:maya.marquez@un.org), who will forward to the Management Team of the M-GA.
- The proposal must be approved by the Social Protection and Jobs Practice Manager and signed by the World Bank Country Director or Manager and submitted to the RSR-ADSP UTF Management Team to [mlundberg@worldbank.org](mailto:mlundberg@worldbank.org), [nbeinker@worldbank.org](mailto:nbeinker@worldbank.org), [surrehman@worldbank.org](mailto:surrehman@worldbank.org), [jchavez@worldbank.org](mailto:jchavez@worldbank.org), with copy to the Management Team of the M-GA by 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024.

### **SELECTION**





- Proposals will be reviewed by the World Bank RSR-ADSP Team and the Joint SDG Fund Secretariat for compliance with submission template and eligibility criteria.
  - Proposals that satisfy the eligibility requirements will be assessed against the technical criteria by independent peer reviewers organized by the Management Team of the M-GA.
  - All proposals, with a short-list recommended for funding, will be submitted by the Management Team to the M-GA Coordinating Council for their strategic guidance.
  - Proposals recommended for World Bank RSR funding will be submitted to the World Bank RSR Steering Committee for approval; proposals recommended for funding through the Joint SDG Fund will be submitted to the Joint SDG Fund Operational Steering Committee for approval.
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- Proposals may be **accepted unconditionally**, **rejected unconditionally**, or asked to be **revised and resubmitted**. Those asked to revise will be given a further two weeks to resubmit. Those rejected will be invited to revise and resubmit to the next Funding Round.
  - Please note that this first funding round has sufficient resources to support activities in up to 9 of the 14 initial pathfinder countries.
  - The UN Resident Coordinator, World Bank Country Representative and the respective country teams will be informed by the Joint SDG Fund and the RSR-ADSP Umbrella Trust Fund Secretariats respectively with copy to the Management Team.

#### 4. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

*For questions regarding the Joint SDG Fund, please contact the Joint SDG Fund Secretariat: [nenad.rava@un.org](mailto:nenad.rava@un.org), Cc-ing [maya.marquez@un.org](mailto:maya.marquez@un.org), and [contact@UNglobalaccelerator.org](mailto:contact@UNglobalaccelerator.org).*

*For questions regarding the RSR, please contact the RSR Management Team: [mlundberg@worldbank.org](mailto:mlundberg@worldbank.org), [surrehman@worldbank.org](mailto:surrehman@worldbank.org), [nbeinker@worldbank.org](mailto:nbeinker@worldbank.org), [akryeziu@worldbank.org](mailto:akryeziu@worldbank.org), and [jchavez@worldbank.org](mailto:jchavez@worldbank.org).*

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