



**GLOBAL
ACCELERATOR**

Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions

Asia-Pacific Global Accelerator Policy Forum:
Meeting the Commitments for Productive
Employment and Universal Social Protection

8-9 April 2025, Phnom Penh

BRIEFING NOTE



What is the Global Accelerator?

The Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions (GA) is an initiative launched in September 2021 by the UN Secretary-General to help countries address multiple crises—including COVID-19, persistent informality, poverty and inequality, lack of decent jobs, and financing gaps—while preparing them for current and future challenges and opportunities arising from digital, green, and demographic transitions, as well as broader economic transformations.

The initiative aims to support the creation of millions of decent jobs, the extension of social protection to billions of currently excluded people, and the facilitation of "just" transitions for all. By placing decent work and universal social protection at the heart of recovery efforts, the Global Accelerator seeks to usher in a new era of shared prosperity, sustainable peace, and social justice.

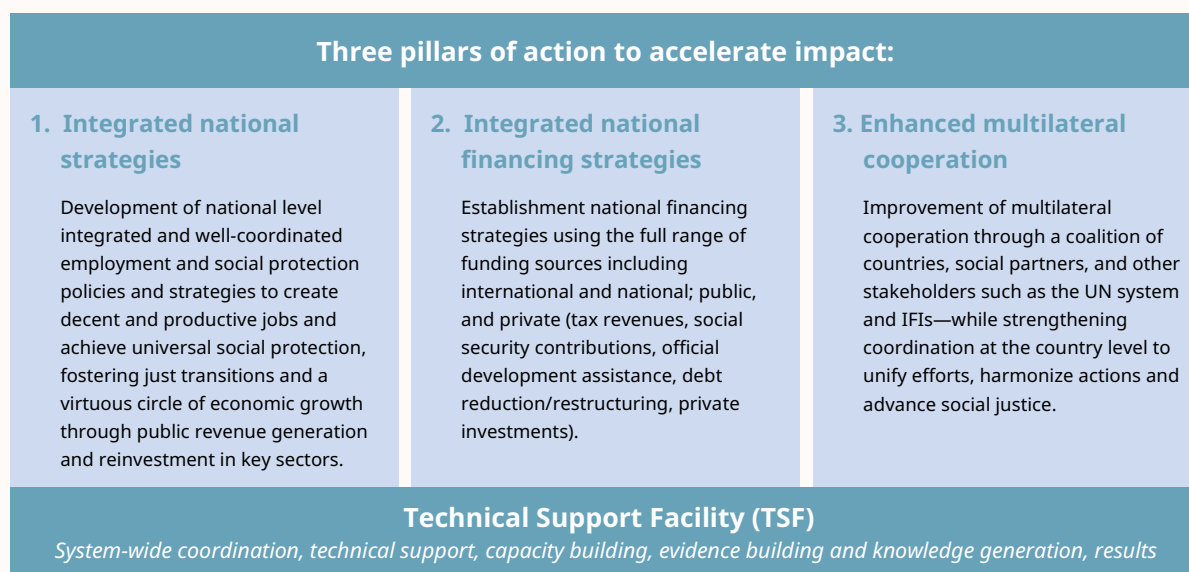
As a means to achieve effective and coordinated multilateral cooperation, the Global Accelerator is supported by the UN system, the G7 and G20, the UN Joint SDG Fund, and public development banks. It is one of twelve [*High-Impact Initiatives*](#) identified within the UN development system to accelerate SDG progress between now and 2030. It also serves as a key vehicle for the Jobs and Social Protection Transition, one of the [*Six Transitions*](#) which are the investment pathways to deliver the SDGs.

The Global Accelerator is one of the main pillars of the [*Global Coalition for Social Justice*](#), and responds to the call of the [*Singapore Statement*](#) to reaffirm tripartite commitments and the key role of social dialogue between government, workers and employers to address the persistent decent work deficits in the Asia-Pacific region. The International Labour Organization (ILO) is coordinating the operationalization of the Global Accelerator, in collaboration with FAO, UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women, and WFP.

Global Accelerator's Strategy

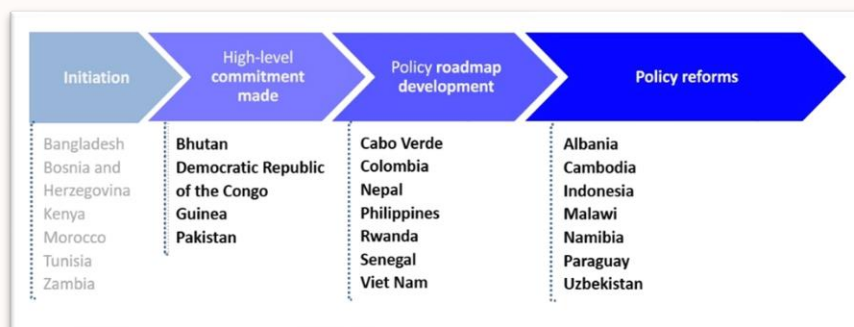
The overall goal of the Global Accelerator is to support countries to overcome decent work and social protection deficits by facilitating just transitions for all people. At the core of the Global Accelerator is the promotion of a more inclusive model of development, founded on the idea that economic development cannot be sustained without social progress.

The Global Accelerator operates through three mutually reinforcing areas of work:



The GA supports pathfinder countries that make a high-level commitment to accelerating jobs and social protection for just transitions. As of April 2025, eighteen countries have officially confirmed their high-level commitment to join the Global Accelerator and become pathfinder countries.

The implementation of the Accelerator is based on a *national roadmap* led by governments and co-created by relevant ministries, workers' and employers' organisations, civil



society, relevant public institutions, bilateral and multilateral cooperation agencies, UN, International Financing Institutions (IFIs) and multilateral and national development banks. GA roadmaps are broad strategic documents that align with existing national plans and strategies, enabling governments to implement prioritized policy reforms and programs to achieve decent jobs, social protection, and just transition goals.

Governance Structure

The design, implementation, and financing of the Accelerator require coordination of national and international actors: the ministries in charge of the economy, planning, finance, labour and employment, vocational training, and social protection and poverty reduction, among others; employers' and workers' organisations, civil society; public development banks, bilateral development partners, and United Nations agencies.

Therefore, the GA is governed through a multi-tiered structure. At the global level, a Steering Group provides strategic direction, monitors progress, and advocates for investment in social protection and employment at the global fora. The Steering Group is composed of pathfinder country governments, workers' and employers' organizations, public development banks, donors, the United Nations, and civil society. The entire process at the national level is overseen by National Steering Committees, which draw on existing coordination structures wherever possible. National Steering Committees are chaired by the lead government ministry or institution, which should have strong convening power; they are composed of participating ministries, workers' and employers' organisations, civil society, and supported by UN Resident Coordinators and participating UN agencies, development banks, donors, and other national stakeholders.



Technical Support Facility (TSF)

A Technical Support Facility has been established to assist pathfinder countries in translating the GA's vision into action. The TSF is comprised of a Coordination Team that oversees the management of all TSF activities; a Hub of Expertise at the global and regional levels, and a portfolio of national development cooperation activities, including UN Joint Programmes, in pathfinder countries.

TSF activities include strategic planning, tool development, knowledge management, resource mobilization, communication, results and impact measurement, and evidence-based advocacy, among others. Most importantly, TSF coordinates and provides demand-driven technical assistance to pathfinder countries in key areas such as developing and implementing integrated policies, and financing strategies, enterprise formalization and employment, youth employment, vocational training, green transition, reducing inequalities and gender gaps, sectoral transformations, results monitoring, and conducting assessments, diagnostics, and modelling for informed policy development.

TSF Global Coordination Team is currently composed of experts from the ILO, UNICEF, UNDP, WFP, FAO, and UN Women.



International
Labour
Organization



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



unicef 
for every child



World Food
Programme

Resource mobilization for technical assistance to countries

The Global Accelerator actively facilitates catalytic funding opportunities. In 2023 and early 2024, significant resources were mobilized, and key funding instruments were designed to enable supporting the development and implementation of the national roadmaps of the pathfinder countries. This includes the launch of a dedicated funding track on Decent Jobs and Universal Social Protection by the UN Joint SDG Fund as well as joint coordination and financing mechanisms, M-GA (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) fostering collaboration between the UN and the World Bank.



In 2024, the Joint SDG Fund launched its first funding round in support of the Global Accelerator with contributions from Belgium, Germany, and Spain. By investing in joint UN action coordinated by UN Resident Coordinators and implemented by UN Country Teams, the joint programmes develop systemic responses that simultaneously address policy, capacity, and financing needs toward transformational impact. With a total portfolio of US \$14.7 million across 14 countries, the first funding round features three funding tracks: (i) the *High Impact Track* for advanced-stage pathfinder countries, (ii) the *Seed Funding Track* for early-stage pathfinder countries, and (iii) *M-GA track* for the collaboration with the World Bank.

A second M-GA funding round is set to launch in April 2025, supported by contributions from Germany and



Ireland. This round will benefit 18 pathfinder countries, along with others where enhanced UN–World Bank cooperation may be leveraged to further the goals of the Global Accelerator and the World Bank's Compass agenda.

The Republic of Korea has provided US \$2.8 million to the ILO through two projects, supporting the establishment and operationalization of the Technical Support Facility, as well as the implementation of national commitments in pathfinder countries. France has also contributed financial support to the ILO to advance country-level implementation of the Global Accelerator in targeted pathfinder contexts.



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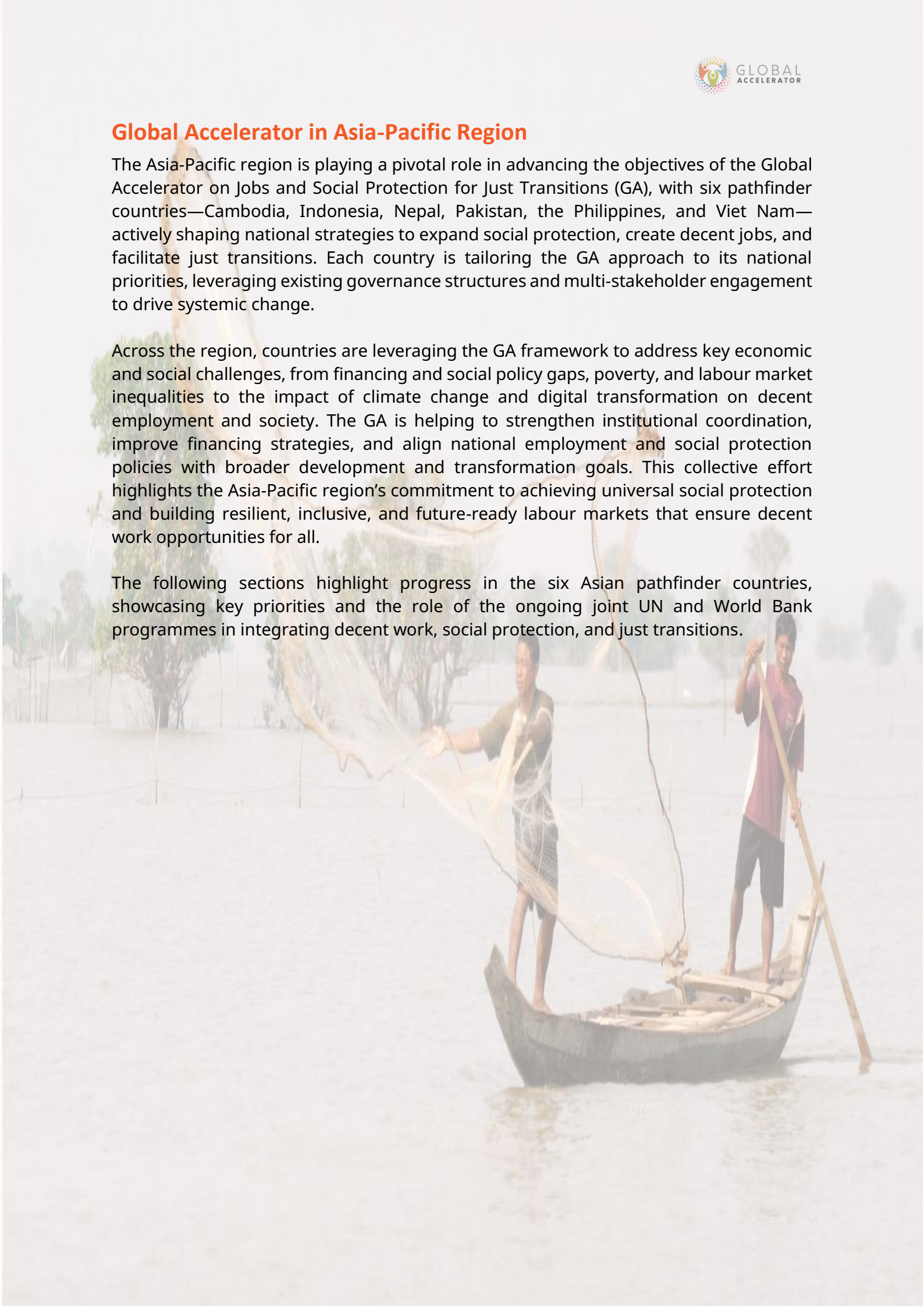


Global Accelerator in Asia-Pacific Region

The Asia-Pacific region is playing a pivotal role in advancing the objectives of the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions (GA), with six pathfinder countries—Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Viet Nam—actively shaping national strategies to expand social protection, create decent jobs, and facilitate just transitions. Each country is tailoring the GA approach to its national priorities, leveraging existing governance structures and multi-stakeholder engagement to drive systemic change.

Across the region, countries are leveraging the GA framework to address key economic and social challenges, from financing and social policy gaps, poverty, and labour market inequalities to the impact of climate change and digital transformation on decent employment and society. The GA is helping to strengthen institutional coordination, improve financing strategies, and align national employment and social protection policies with broader development and transformation goals. This collective effort highlights the Asia-Pacific region's commitment to achieving universal social protection and building resilient, inclusive, and future-ready labour markets that ensure decent work opportunities for all.

The following sections highlight progress in the six Asian pathfinder countries, showcasing key priorities and the role of the ongoing joint UN and World Bank programmes in integrating decent work, social protection, and just transitions.





Cambodia

Cambodia joined the Global Accelerator as a pathfinder country in July 2023, scaling up policy, financing, and institutional reforms to drive inclusive economic growth, workforce formalization, and universal social protection. Led by the Ministry of Economy and Finance and the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training, the Cambodia GA Roadmap was developed with UN support to guide the country's ambition to graduate from Least Developed Country (LDC) status by 2029 and achieve high-income status by 2050, in line with the Pentagonal Strategy and Cambodia Vision 2050.

The Cambodia GA Roadmap is structured around five interconnected priority areas forming the foundation for transformative change:

- Pro-employment macroeconomic and financing policies to strengthen public finance management and increase investments in jobs, social protection, and Universal Health Coverage (UHC).
- Workforce development and skills enhancement by expanding TVET to 1.5 million youth from poor and at-risk households, strengthening skills in priority sectors, and ensuring gender-responsive employment opportunities.
- Social protection expansion through mandatory health insurance for self-employed workers, strengthening the Family Package for vulnerable households, and implementing Graduation-Based Social Protection (GBSP) to transition recipients toward sustainable livelihoods.
- Formalization of informal workers and enterprises through the National Strategy for Informal Economy Development (NSIED), improving social security access for MSMEs, and expanding labour law coverage.
- An enabling environment for inclusive labour markets through stronger public-private partnerships, digitalized social security services, and enhanced gender equality and labour rights.

The High-Impact Track (HIT) – implemented by UNDP, ILO, and UNICEF – and the M-GA (UNICEF, ILO, and the WB) joint programmes support the roadmap by addressing different priority areas. The HIT focuses on expanding social protection for informal economy workers, MSMEs, and the self-employed, while supporting MSME formalization through social security and employment benefits, enhancing skills development and employment services for vulnerable workers, and developing sustainable financing for Universal Health Care. The M-GA complements this by investing in human capital, improving the Family Package, aligning TVET with labour market needs, strengthening employment–social protection linkages, and ensuring coherence across social and labour market policies.

Reinforced by the HIT and M-GA, the GA Roadmap lays the foundation for Cambodia's graduation from LDC status and transition toward a higher-income, socially inclusive economy—ensuring no one is left behind.

 Indonesia

Indonesia became a pathfinder country of the Global Accelerator in June 2023, reinforcing its commitment to inclusive economic transformation and social protection expansion. Led by the Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS), the GA roadmap aligns with Indonesia's Long-Term National Development Plan 2025–2045 (RPJPN) and Medium-Term Plan 2025–2029 (RPJMN), with a vision to achieve high-income status by 2045, eliminate extreme poverty by 2030, and strengthen universal social protection and skills development.

Indonesia's roadmap is built on two core transformation areas, with integrated policies that foster economic growth, social inclusion, and workforce resilience.

- Social Transformation focuses on expanding universal social protection, integrating labour market policies, and strengthening the socioeconomic registry (Regsosek) to enhance the targeting and delivery of assistance. It also emphasizes adaptive social protection, ensuring vulnerable populations—including those affected by climate change, disasters, and energy transitions—receive responsive and inclusive support. Additionally, it prioritizes the formalization of informal workers and enterprises, strengthening social security access, increasing compliance, and improving labour protections.
- Economic Transformation prioritizes skills development and workforce modernization through sectoral skills councils, improved apprenticeship systems, and targeted reskilling initiatives. It also focuses on green and digital transformation, ensuring economic growth is driven by digitalization, green jobs, and enhanced labour market access for youth, women, and marginalized groups.

The HIT joint programme (implemented by ILO, UNICEF, UNDP) strengthens adaptive social protection by expanding coverage for informal and self-employed workers, improving the efficiency of social security systems, and integrating labour market policies with social protection schemes. It also supports the modernization of human resource development via targeted support for sectoral skills committees, quality apprenticeships and innovative financing options for skills development. The M-GA programme, implemented by ILO, UNICEF and the WB, complements this by enhancing job-matching mechanisms, expanding skills training for workers in transition, and promoting employment opportunities for underrepresented groups, including persons with disabilities and women in non-traditional sectors.

Through targeted investments in skills, adaptive social protection, and employment formalization, Indonesia is fostering an economy that not only drives sustainable growth but also ensures that workers, particularly the vulnerable ones, can thrive in a rapidly evolving labour market.



Nepal made a high-level commitment to expanding social protection and decent job creation in February 2024, officially becoming a Pathfinder Country under the Global Accelerator. The country is currently developing a national roadmap to drive policy, financing, and institutional reforms aimed at fostering employment generation and social protection expansion. Led by the National Planning Commission (NPC), in coordination with the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security and the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies Nepal is undertaking a process to define priority actions and investment strategies that will accelerate economic transformation, enhance workforce productivity, and strengthen social protection systems.

Nepal's planned GA priorities reflect national development goals and the broader effort to ensure a smooth and irreversible graduation from Least Developed Country (LDC) status by 2026. These include:

- Strengthening policy coherence and institutional coordination for employment and social protection, ensuring that fragmented efforts are integrated into a unified national framework.
- Expanding access to social protection, with a focus on informal workers, women, youth, and vulnerable groups who remain underserved by existing schemes.
- Boosting workforce skills and productivity through targeted interventions in enterprise development, workplace-based training, and micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs).
- Enhancing financing strategies for social protection and employment initiatives, ensuring sustainability and long-term impact.
- Addressing climate change impacts on employment and economic opportunities, supporting just transitions and adaptation strategies.

The GA Seed Funding Programme, implemented by ILO, UNDP, UNICEF, and UN Women, is providing technical and facilitation support to develop Nepal's GA roadmap. It is helping generate evidence, foster policy dialogue, and engage key stakeholders to define priority sectors for job-rich growth, map social protection schemes, and develop financing strategies. The programme also integrates a strong gender and inclusion focus, ensuring that the roadmap reflects the needs of women, youth, and marginalized groups. The M-GA Joint Programme, co-led by the ILO, UNICEF, and the World Bank, builds on these efforts by enhancing institutional capacity, policy coherence, and programmatic integration. It strengthens government-led strategic programmes—such as on-the-job training (OJT), microenterprise development (MEDPA), and the Prime Minister Employment Programme (PMEP)—to align with the GA's objectives. Additionally, it supports the formalization of employment and enterprises while expanding social security coverage.



Pakistan

Pakistan formally joined the Global Accelerator as a Pathfinder Country in July 2024, recognizing the urgent need to address high informality, economic vulnerabilities, and fragmented social protection systems. The initiative is being led by the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (MOPHRD) and overseen by a National Steering Committee, which brings together key ministries, provincial governments, workers' and employers' organisations, and civil society. The government has also established a National Technical Committee to guide the development of Pakistan's GA roadmap, ensuring alignment with Vision 2025, the Economic Transformation Agenda, and national social protection policies.

Pakistan, a country that recently joined the Global Accelerator as a pathfinder, is starting the GA roadmap development process with a strong emphasis on integrating jobs and social protection strategies to create sustainable employment opportunities and extend coverage to excluded populations. Potential entry points identified through policy mapping and analysis exercises are currently being discussed with stakeholders. The potential entry points include:

- Formalization of the informal economy, which currently accounts for over 72 percent of total employment and poses a challenge to social security expansion.
- Sectoral development for job creation, particularly in agrifood and textiles, fosters economic growth and increases employment opportunities.
- Enhancing youth employment and skills development, recognizing that 1 million young people enter the labour force annually, but over 32 percent of youth remain outside education, employment, or training (NEET).
- Women's economic empowerment addressing the low female labour force participation rate (21.4 percent) by improving access to decent work, strengthening social protection, and integrating gender-responsive policies.
- Strengthening and financing social protection towards building universal coverage by addressing gaps in the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), extension of contributory schemes, and provincial social assistance programmes.

While Pakistan has yet to secure funding for GA-related projects in the upcoming funding round, it is laying the groundwork for future investments through its multi-tiered governance structure. The National Steering Committee, chaired by the Secretary of MOPHRD, will be coordinating a participatory and consultative process for the prioritization of the potential entry points and the development of the roadmap.



Philippines

The Philippines formally joined the Global Accelerator as a pathfinder country in March 2024. The process is led by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), coordinated by the Trabaho Para sa Bayan (TPB) Inter-Agency Council, which oversees the development and implementation of the GA roadmap. The Philippines' GA priorities align with the Philippine Development Plan 2023–2028, the Philippine Labour and Employment Plan (PLEP) 2023–2028, and the Social Protection Plan 2023–2028, reinforcing efforts to build an inclusive, sustainable, and resilient labour market.

The Philippines has identified construction and transportation as key sectors for its GA roadmap, reflecting national priorities for economic transformation and decent job creation. The roadmap aims to:

- Expand access to social protection by strengthening policies ensuring income security, occupational safety and health, pensions, and unemployment protection for workers in construction and transportation
- Create decent jobs and improve working conditions, particularly in high-growth sectors, while supporting the transition to formal employment
- Enhance workforce skills and employability by integrating TVET and sector-based training programmes, ensuring workers are equipped for sustainable, future-oriented employment
- Improve financing strategies and policy coherence through an integrated approach to funding social protection and employment initiatives
- Support just transitions in key employment-generating sectors by integrating climate resilience and green jobs strategies into labour market policies

The GA Seed Funding Programme, led by the ILO, UNDP, and UNICEF, is driving roadmap development through policy research, stakeholder consultations, and institutional capacity-building. It contributes to reforms in employment and social protection—particularly in construction and transportation—by identifying and evaluating pathways for increased government financing, developing sector-specific skills programmes, reviewing the unemployment protection system, analysing social protection extension to gig and platform workers, and strengthening monitoring and evaluation.

The M-GA Joint Programme, co-led by the ILO, UNICEF, and the World Bank, with technical support from UNDP, complements these efforts by enhancing institutional capacity, employment policies, and social assistance schemes. It focuses on improving job-matching services, integrating social protection with employment programmes, generating evidence for increased social climate finance, and ensuring vulnerable workers—including persons with disabilities and women in male-dominated industries—have access to sustainable livelihoods.



Viet Nam

In Viet Nam, Party Resolution No 42-NQ/TW (2023) issued by the Central Executive Committee of the Viet Nam Communist Party formalized the goal for Viet Nam to become a pathfinder country of the GA. The resolution emphasized the importance of social investments to improve decent work opportunities and social protection, especially for disadvantaged and vulnerable groups. This commitment comes at a time of economic transformation and in the context of persisting challenges and gender inequalities in expanding decent and productive employment and reducing informal employment, while establishing a more accessible, inclusive, coherent, rights-based and gender- and shock-responsive social protection system that caters for the specific needs of all, across their life cycle. In May 2024, the Government promulgated the Government's Action Program ([Govt resolution # 68/NQ-CP](#) dated 09 May 2024) to implement Resolution No. 42-NQ/TW of the Central Committee on continuing to innovate and improve the quality of social policies to meet the requirements of national development and defence in the new period.

In response, the UN System in Viet Nam aims to strengthen the foundations of the Global Accelerator by providing technical assistance to the Government and national stakeholders in the development of a national roadmap and preparation for its implementation and financing, in line with the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Viet Nam (2022-2026). In this context, a UN Joint Programme on Operationalizing the Global Accelerator is implemented by the ILO, UNDP and UN Women in collaboration with FAO, IOM and UNICEF and under the overall guidance of the UN Resident Coordinator Office. The joint programme aims at supporting (i) to contribute knowledge and technical assistance for integrated gender-responsive policies and financing in support of SDG transition on decent jobs and social protection for just transitions, (ii) to enhance national dialogues and capacities among government, employers' and workers' organizations and other stakeholders to develop a national Global Accelerator roadmap in Viet Nam, and (iii) to support the operationalization of the Global Accelerator through a roadmap, results measurement, partnerships and financing options.

The M-GA Joint Programme, co-led by the ILO, UNDP and the World Bank aims to support through enhancement of the gender-responsiveness of labour market measures for green transition and of social protection systems through assessing occupations and skills needs for renewable energy, developing a gender-responsive career development tool on transitions to green jobs, assessing impacts of key policy reforms on coverage expansion and contribution behaviour, analysing policy options to support workers and discourage lump-sum social insurance withdrawals, and assessing how to strengthen the social protection system to integrate climate considerations.

Asia-Pacific Policy Forum: Advancing the GA Agenda

The Asia-Pacific Policy Forum serves as a key platform to deepen regional collaboration on the skills and social protection nexus under the Global Accelerator. As six pathfinder countries progress in their GA implementation, the forum will offer an opportunity to share experiences, strengthen coordination, and identify solutions to accelerate impact.

The discussions at the forum will build on the diverse approaches taken by countries in integrating GA priorities into national strategies. By bringing together governments, workers' and employers' organisations, UN agencies, and development partners, the forum will help refine strategies for achieving universal social protection, sustainable job creation, and inclusive growth across the region.

Connecting to Global Agendas

Strengthening integrated approaches to employment and social protection not only accelerates national progress but also reinforces global efforts to build more resilient economies and societies. The insights and commitments emerging from this forum will serve as building blocks for broader multilateral action, ensuring that just transitions and inclusive growth remain central themes in the global development agenda.

The forum, therefore, will be a great platform for aligning with the broader international agenda by feeding into milestones such as [the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development \(FfD4\)](#) and [the World Summit for Social Development \(WSSD\)](#). By advancing commitments at the national and regional levels, the Global Accelerator in the Asia-Pacific can help shape a global agenda that promotes equitable economic transitions, social protection extension, and more and better social investments for just transitions.

Acknowledgement

The Asia Pacific Global Accelerator Policy Forum would like to recognise and thank the following projects for their strong support:

- Accelerating the Achievement of Universal Social Protection to Leave No One Behind (Irish Aid)
- Better Livelihoods and Human Capital through Improved Service Delivery in Social Protection and Skills, Cambodia (M-GA Joint Programme)
- Decent Employment for Youth in Cambodia Phase III (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation)
- Decent Jobs and Social Protection Expansion for Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth in Cambodia (UN Joint Programme)
- Delivering on national commitments: Korea's support to the implementation of the Global Accelerator (Ministry of Employment and Labor, Republic of Korea)
- Modern and adaptive social protection and skills development systems for transforming Indonesia (UN Joint Programme)
- Operationalizing the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions in Viet Nam (UN Joint Programme)
- Promoting the Global Development Initiative with a Focus on South-South Cooperation in Employment in ASEAN (MOHRSS, China)
- Strengthening Skills Development in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar through South-South and triangular cooperation (MOHRSS, China)



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