



GLOBAL
ACCELERATOR



JOINT SDG FUND

GLOBAL ACCELERATOR ON JOBS AND SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR JUST TRANSITIONS

PROGRESS REPORT 2024-2025



GLOBAL ACCELERATOR ON JOBS AND SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR JUST TRANSITIONS

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Foreword

The world stands at a crossroads: rising inequality and informality, rapid digitalization, demographic transitions, climate change, conflicts and wars are rapidly transforming and threatening the social and economic fabric of many countries. Over the past decade, the global population as a whole has become wealthier, healthier and better educated. However, inequalities have also widened significantly, slowing down progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in the advancement of social justice. These negative trends can be reversed, though, if we act smartly, swiftly and jointly.

Since its launch in September 2021, the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions has been coordinating a decisive response to these compounding crises. By prioritizing decent jobs and universal social protection in the face of digital, green, agriculture, and demographic transitions, Global Accelerator pathfinder countries are shaping national development paths that are resilient, inclusive and sustainable.

The Global Accelerator is not just an aspiration; it is action that has delivered results. In Albania, for example, a long-term care model is being piloted that not only responds to the care needs of older people and persons with disabilities but also creates new decent employment opportunities for women. In Senegal, a national macro- and micro-level economic simulation exercise and targeted policy support have informed the Government's efforts to scale up the creation of decent jobs and extend social protection for all. The Philippines is implementing integrated employment and social protection approaches to reduce informality, create decent jobs and extend social protection coverage in two sectors affected by climate change and digitalization, namely transport and construction. These few examples show that the Global Accelerator initiative is able to adapt to the circumstances of individual countries when helping them design concrete public policy solutions and investments to ensure just transitions.

Momentum is being built up nationally and globally. The Global Accelerator has gained recognition among stakeholders across the entire spectrum of the international development agenda. In particular, the Doha Political Declaration from the Second World Summit for Social Development in November 2025 and several declarations adopted at ministerial meetings and summits in 2025 have highlighted the Global Accelerator as an effective vehicle for translating ambitious pledges into tangible results and to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Such recognition matters: it positions the Global Accelerator not as yet another "declaration of intent", but a catalyst to achieve real impact. It also demonstrates that multilateralism is a powerful lever for sustained and sustainable change.

Pooled financing has been central to enabling this progress. The Joint SDG Fund – the UN's flagship pooled financing mechanism for integrated SDG solutions – has demonstrated the catalytic power of unified, flexible resources to unlock large-scale social development investments. Since 2019, every dollar channeled through the Fund has mobilized significantly more in aligned and additional financing, enabling countries to design and deliver integrated policy packages that connect social protection, employment, skills and inclusive growth. This pooled, multilateral model not only accelerates national reforms but also strengthens coherence across the UN development system under the leadership of Resident Coordinators.

This report on the progress made in the 2024–25 period captures the energy and leadership that are already on display. It documents how countries are turning their aspirations into reality – supported by technical expertise, coordinated resources and a shared commitment to putting social justice at the heart of the transitions they are facing. It also outlines the way forward to build on the lessons learned, strengthen financing options and ensure that no one is left behind in the transformations to come.

The challenges that lie before us are formidable. But so is our collective ability to meet these challenges – if we act with urgency, unity and resolve.

- Technical Support Facility of the Global Accelerator

Table of contents

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Foreword | V |
| Acknowledgements | X |
| Abbreviations | XI |
| Timeline and main results | XIII |
| Section 1. Introduction | 1 |
| Sevilla and Doha: Milestones in recognition for the Global Accelerator | 2 |
| Turning potential into reality | 3 |
| Section 2. How does the Global Accelerator work? | 7 |
| The Strategy | 7 |
| Theory of Change | 9 |
| Results Framework | 9 |
| Governance Structure | 10 |
| Technical Support Facility | 13 |
| Funding pathways, resource mobilization and partnerships | 18 |
| Section 3. Country results achieved | 24 |
| Advanced-stage pathfinder countries | 26 |
| Albania | 26 |
| Cambodia | 30 |
| Indonesia | 34 |
| Malawi | 39 |
| Namibia | 43 |
| Paraguay | 46 |
| Uzbekistan | 49 |

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Early-stage pathfinder countries | 53 |
| Cabo Verde | 53 |
| Colombia | 56 |
| Nepal | 59 |
| Philippines | 62 |
| Rwanda | 64 |
| Senegal | 66 |
| Viet Nam | 68 |
| New pathfinder countries | 71 |
| Bhutan | 71 |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo | 72 |
| Guinea | 73 |
| Pakistan | 75 |
| Tunisia | 77 |
| Section 4. Lessons learned | 79 |
| Section 5. Way forward | 83 |
| References | 88 |

List of boxes

| | |
|--|----|
| Box 1. Regional-level dialogue for the Global Accelerator pathfinder countries in Asia–Pacific | 16 |
| Box 2. The “Delivering on national commitments” project: How the Government of the Republic of Korea is supporting the Global Accelerator. . . . | 20 |

List of figures

| | |
|---|------|
| Figure 1. Global Accelerator timeline and main results, 2024–2025. | XIII |
| Figure 2. Model country pathway for the development of a Global Accelerator national road map | 4 |
| Figure 3. The three pillars of the Global Accelerator | 8 |
| Figure 4. The Global Accelerator’s results framework | 10 |
| Figure 5. Example of a Global Accelerator national governance structure (Cambodia) | 12 |

List of tables

| | |
|--|----|
| Table 1. Progress made in Global Accelerator pathfinder countries, May 2024–December 2025 | 24 |
| Table 2. Funding allocated to Global Accelerator pathfinder countries through the funding rounds organized by the Joint SDG Fund and the GA TSF in 2024 and 2025 (in US dollars) | 25 |

List of images

| | |
|---|----|
| Image 1: Asia Pacific Global Accelerator Policy Forum, Cambodia | 17 |
| Image 2. High-level field visit to LEAP project locations | 27 |
| Image 3. Cambodia's Deputy Prime Minister at the Asia Pacific Global Accelerator Policy Forum, Phnom Penh | 30 |
| Image 4. Launch of the UN system joint programmes related to the Global Accelerator in Indonesia | 35 |
| Image 5. Recognition of Prior Learning training in Malawi | 39 |
| Image 6. Namibia’s Global Accelerator team participating in a session on employment impact assessment | 44 |

| | |
|---|----|
| Image 7. Meeting of Paraguay’s Tripartite Commission for Equal Opportunities | 48 |
| Image 8. Tripartite workshop on social insurance legislation in Uzbekistan. | 50 |
| Image 9. Workshop on validation of Cabo Verde’s Global Accelerator road map | 54 |
| Image 10. Briefing for regional authorities on the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions National Roadmap | 56 |
| Image 11. Workshop on the development of Nepal’s Global Accelerator road map | 59 |
| Image 12. Regional consultation workshop on the Global Accelerator | 63 |
| Image 13. Workshop with national stakeholders in Rwanda on formalization of the economy | 65 |
| Image 14. Technical workshop to discuss and validate Senegal’s Global Accelerator road map | 67 |
| Image 15. Consultation meeting on the Global Accelerator in Viet Nam | 69 |
| Image 16. The Minister of Labour and Public Service of Guinea and national stakeholders together with the UN team involved in the Global Accelerator initiative | 74 |
| Image 17. Delegation from Pakistan at the Asia Pacific Global Accelerator Policy Forum, Phnom Penh | 75 |

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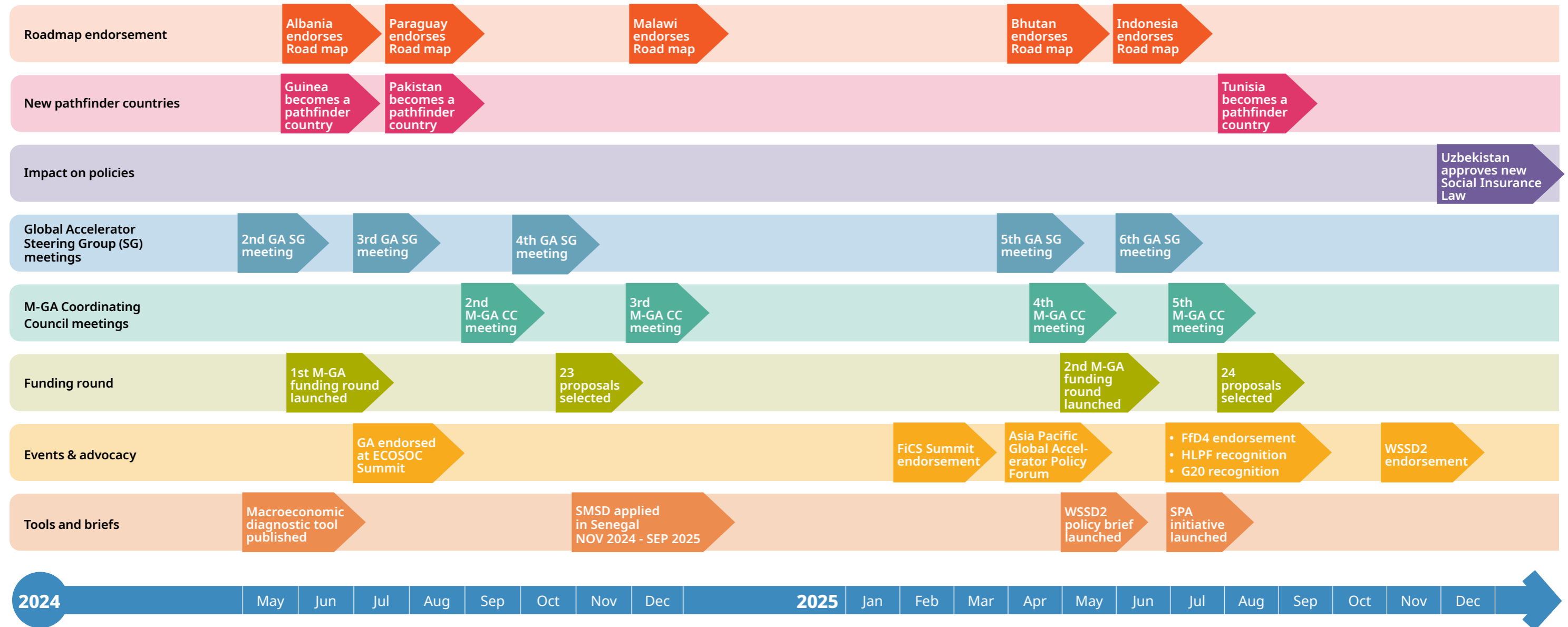
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Abbreviations

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| ADB | Asian Development Bank |
| ALMP | active labour market policy |
| BAPPENAS | Ministry of National Development Planning (Indonesia) |
| CSO | civil society organization |
| DGPPE | General Directorate for Planning and Economic Policy (Senegal) |
| ESPER | Employment and Social Protection Expenditure Review |
| FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations |
| FfD4 | Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development |
| FICS | Finance in Common Summit |
| G20 | Group of 20 (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Türkiye, United Kingdom, United States; African Union, European Union) |
| GDP | gross domestic product |
| HLPF | High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development |
| IFAD | International Fund for Agricultural Development |
| IFI | international financial institution |
| ILO | International Labour Organization |
| IMWG | Interministerial Working Group (Cambodia) |
| INFF | integrated national financing framework |
| IOM | International Organization for Migration |
| ISOL | Institute of State Organizational and Labour Sciences (Viet Nam) |
| KfW | Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau |
| LTC | long-term care |
| M-GA | Multi-Stakeholder Engagement to Implement the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions and the World Bank Social Protection and Jobs Compass |
| MSMEs | micro, small and medium-sized enterprises |
| NASP | National Agency for Social Protection (Uzbekistan) |
| NEET | not in employment, education or training |
| NSC | national steering committee |
| PDB | public development bank |
| RPL | recognition of prior learning |
| SDG | Sustainable Development Goal |
| SMSD | Structural Model for Sustainable Development |
| SOCIEUX+ | EU Expertise on Social Protection, Labour and Employment |
| STED | Skills for Trade and Economic Diversification |
| TSF | Technical Support Facility of the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions |
| TVET | technical and vocational education and training |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| UNICEF | United Nations Children's Fund |
| UN Women | United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women |
| WFP | World Food Programme |
| WSSD2 | Second World Summit for Social Development |

Timeline and main results

Figure 1. Global Accelerator timeline and main results, 2024–2025



ECOSOC = Economic and Social Council;
 FfD4 = Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development;
 FiCS Summit = Fifth Finance in Common Summit;
 GA = Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions;
 HLPF = High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development;
 M-GA Coordinating Council (CC) Meeting
 M-GA = Multi-Stakeholder Engagement to Implement the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions and the World Bank Social Protection and Jobs Compass;
 SMSD = Structural Model for Sustainable Development;
 WSSD2 = Second World Summit for Social Development.



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Section
1





Section 1. Introduction

As at September 2025, which marks ten years since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, only 35 per cent of the targets under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were on track or making moderate progress; nearly half (48 per cent) of the SDG targets were progressing too slowly and 18 per cent were even regressing (UN 2025a). Structural challenges persist. Currently, 402 million people want to work but cannot find a job (ILO 2025a), while 3.8 billion people lack access to any form of social protection (ILO 2024a). Building social protection floors to guarantee the rights of all these people would require an investment of around 3.3 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) of low- and middle-income countries (ILO 2024a). Labour force participation rates have dropped in low-income countries, which is limiting further progress in improving living standards (ILO 2025a). These conditions have led to the continued widening of income inequalities and the entrenchment of working poverty, and resulted in greater numbers of people, especially young women, not being in employment, education or training (NEET), which poses challenges for long-term development.

Commemorating the 75th anniversary of the United Nations (UN) in 2021, the UN Secretary-General presented a report entitled *Our Common Agenda* calling for more inclusive and effective multilateralism to address the gaps and risks that have emerged owing to the fragmentation of approaches in implementing the 2030 Agenda (UN 2021). Against the backdrop of slow progress on the SDGs and taking into account the priorities set forth in *Our Common Agenda*, the 2023 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (“SDG Summit”) identified six catalytic transitions

as investment pathways that would have a multiplier effect across the SDGs. The Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions contributes to the “Jobs and Social Protection” transition. The initiative is the UN system’s collective response that brings together governments, the social partners, development partners, development banks and the private sector to promote country-led solutions and mobilize the resources and partnerships required to achieve large-scale, long-lasting social transformations. A prime example of multilateral UN system action to address social justice deficits, the Global Accelerator is also one of the key interventions of the Global Coalition for Social Justice and serves as one of its operational underpinnings. By bringing together diverse players in the development ecosystem, the Global Accelerator can reduce fragmentation and duplication of efforts and serves as a platform for coordination and a driver of action.

The Global Accelerator initiative demonstrates that spending on social protection and the creation of decent jobs should not be seen as an expense, but as a crucial investment that helps build human capital and put countries on the path to prosperity. Recognizing the interdependence of policymaking, financing and investment decisions, it seeks to increase the effectiveness of policy interventions by matching them with predictable and adequate financing to create long-term socio-economic resilience. Predicated on the alignment of political will, financing and technical expertise, the Global Accelerator assists governments in prioritizing the design of integrated policy packages that are socially inclusive and economically sustainable with a view to accelerating progress towards the SDGs.

The experience of the Global Accelerator confirms that financing modalities matter, as much as the policies they support. Country-led, multisectoral reforms require predictable, flexible and integrated financing streams capable of supporting the implementation and better integration of employment, social protection, macroeconomic policy and institutional strengthening. Pooled funding – in this case, through the Joint SDG Fund – has proven to be one of the most effective instruments for enabling such coherence. By blending contributions upfront, aligning partners around unified results frameworks and empowering Resident Coordinators to steer a whole-of-UN response, pooled financing has helped countries design comprehensive policy packages that link social protection extension, decent job creation and just transitions.

The extension of social protection helps to reduce poverty, enhances health and income security, and boosts aggregate demand and productivity, thereby breaking the cycle of generational exclusion and inequality. Complementarity between

employment and social protection policies leads to improved living standards for workers and their families, enhances their skills and employability, increases productivity, and helps enterprises and workers navigate the transition to formality. The mutual reinforcement of jobs and social protection triggers a virtuous cycle of development, social coherence and stability, and makes employment and social protection not only ends in themselves but also critical enablers of sustainable development.

Laws and policies that are designed to help promote the creation of decent jobs and the extension of social protection coverage enable countries to provide their populations with the conditions of freedom, equity and dignity, and to move towards the ratification and application of international labour standards. This is essential to overcome persistent challenges of poverty and inequality, close decent work deficits, facilitate the transition to formality, and render jobs and social protection systems resilient to the challenges arising from climate change and other crises and transformations.

Sevilla and Doha: Milestones in recognition for the Global Accelerator

The current reporting period (May 2024–December 2025) has been pivotal for the Global Accelerator's visibility and uptake at key global development policy events.

There is ample evidence to suggest that spending on social protection systems and employment policies and programmes has multiplier effects. Indeed, it has been shown that each US dollar invested in social protection leads to a GDP increase of US\$1.52 in two and a half years (Cardoso et al. 2025). One of the key mandates of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4), held in Sevilla, Spain, from 30 June to 3 July 2025, was to support a reform of the international financing architecture with a view to addressing the persistent gaps and systemic issues that undermine sustainable economic and social development. The outcome document adopted at FfD4, entitled the *Sevilla Commitment*, reaffirmed the centrality of social protection and the creation of decent jobs when securing sustainable financing for development (UN 2025b).

The Conference also launched the Sevilla Platform for Action, which endorsed 130 high-impact initiatives to complement the renewed global financing frameworks adopted as part of the *Sevilla Commitment*. The Global Accelerator was one of the initiatives included in the Sevilla Platform for Action by virtue of its ability to bring together governments, the social partners, the multilateral system, civil society organizations and all allied stakeholders to build policy coherence and support the implementation of priority policies and investments for creating jobs and social protection. Together with the Second World Summit for Social Development, which took place a few months later, FfD4 was aimed at building coherence between social development policy priorities and financing decisions.

Convened 30 years after the first Summit, the Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD2) was held in Doha from 4 to 6 November 2025 with a view to fostering better global dialogue and international cooperation on inclusive social development. Building on the ten commitments adopted at the 1995 World Summit for Social

Development, Copenhagen, WSSD2 focused on three priorities: to accelerate progress on poverty eradication; to promote full and productive employment and decent work for all; and to support social integration. The Summit's ambition of addressing social development issues at the highest level and advancing social progress is central to the Global Accelerator's three pillars of integrated policy approaches, integrated financing and enhanced multilateral cooperation for increased policy coherence. Significantly, the Doha Political Declaration adopted at WSSD2 recognized the Global Accelerator as a practical mechanism for

turning the Summit's commitments into action (UN 2025e, para. 30(h)).

In addition, the Global Accelerator has also been endorsed by the G7, the G20 and the High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development. This demonstrates that an initiative aimed at fostering multilateral cooperation to reduce fragmentation and at achieving social protection and employment impacts on a large scale is seen as essential to current social development and development cooperation efforts.

Turning potential into reality

The Global Accelerator moved decisively from the design phase to implementation during the current reporting period (May 2024–December 2025):

- Five new countries joined the initiative as pathfinder countries: **Bhutan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, Pakistan and Tunisia.**
- National road maps were endorsed in **Albania, Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malawi, Paraguay and Uzbekistan**, while technical validation of **Senegal's** road map was completed and the document is now awaiting final political endorsement.
- Work on the finalization of their national road maps was carried out by **Cabo Verde, Colombia, Namibia, Nepal, the Philippines and Rwanda.**

The Global Accelerator has been funded through several mechanisms. The first is a thematic window on decent jobs and universal social protection established under the **Joint SDG Fund** and financed by Belgium, Germany and Spain. The second funding mechanism is the Multi-Stakeholder 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), which was established, with the support of Germany and Ireland, to strengthen UN-World Bank collaboration. In addition, resources have been allocated to support the Global Accelerator's Technical Support Facility, which drives the initiative at the global level and supports the Joint SDG Fund in channelling resources to UN country teams through several funding rounds.

In 2024, the first such round was initiated through the Joint SDG Fund, resulting in the approval of a

funding envelope of **US\$17.8 million** – financed by Belgium, Germany and Spain – to develop and implement the first set of UN system joint programmes and UN-World Bank joint programmes related to the Global Accelerator. Through allocations under a “High Impact Track” and a “Seed Funding Track”, pathfinder countries received support for the design and implementation of their Global Accelerator national road maps while the “M-GA Funding” boosted capacity to implement a part of the road maps and support joint UN-World Bank action at the country, and global levels. With the funding from the first round, 23 joint programmes commenced with which, governments and the social partners in pathfinder countries began designing integrated packages that combine employment policies, skills development and enterprise formalization policies with expanded social protection coverage and sustainable financing strategies.

In 2025, a second M-GA funding round was launched, by the Joint SDG Fund and TSF, with a funding envelope of **US\$11.8 million** and comprising two tracks: a “Pathfinder Track” open to the Global Accelerator pathfinder countries, and a “Thematic Track” open to additional countries. An additional 23 UN-World Bank joint programmes, one UN system joint programme and one global project to support the TSF were approved for implementation in 2025 and began in the final quarter of the year.

The implementation of these programmes is supported by the Joint SDG Fund, with technical assistance channelled through the Technical Support Facility (TSF) of the Global Accelerator,

which includes UN experts who can be deployed on demand and who develop methodologies, tools and capacity-building activities to support the participating countries. Figure 2 below provides an overview of the development of the Global Accelerator in a national context, showing how this process is leading to policy results and impacts at the national level in terms of achieving several SDGs. It is worth noting that the Global Accelerator envisages various linkages between activities at the national level (notably the design and implementation of road maps in pathfinder countries) and those taking place at the global level (such as the promotion

of cross-country learning and the building of institutional partnerships).

With political commitments secured, financing options expanding and the design and implementation of national road maps under way, the Global Accelerator has now entered a decisive phase. The focus is shifting from design to sustained delivery, which involves embedding integrated employment and social protection policies into national development plans, aligning them with coherent financing strategies and investment opportunities, implementing these integrated approaches on a large scale, and fostering cross-country learning.

Figure 2. Model country pathway for the development of a Global Accelerator national road map








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Section **2**





Section 2.

How does the Global Accelerator work?

The Strategy

Each pathfinder country has its own unique circumstances, but they all face the common challenges of poverty, high informality, a lack of decent jobs, inadequate social protection coverage and insufficient investment to close the existing gaps. They are undergoing transitions of several kinds (economic and structural, demographic, digital and climate change-related) that require effective policy responses to prevent and mitigate possible negative economic and social impacts. How countries respond to these transitions within the broader context of geopolitical change will determine whether the SDGs can be fully achieved. Employment and social protection policies must both address structural challenges (such as informality and underemployment) and ensure that the ongoing economic, demographic,

digital and climate transitions do not lead to greater social exclusion, growing inequalities and unrest, but are fair and equitable for all.

The Global Accelerator is built on the assumption that these challenges need to be addressed simultaneously through a more inclusive model of development. By pursuing a whole-of-government approach that involves the social partners, development partners and financial institutions, and by fostering UN system-wide collaboration, the Global Accelerator seeks to ensure that economic development and social progress go hand in hand. The ultimate aim is to enable countries to create decent and productive jobs that help to expand social protection and promote just transitions, through integrated policy, integrated financing, and multilateral cooperation.

Figure 3. The three pillars of the Global Accelerator



Source: Adapted from UNSDG (2021).

INFF = integrated national financing framework; SDG = Sustainable Development Goal.

As shown in figure 3, the Global Accelerator's strategy comprises three key pillars:

- **Pillar 1 – Integrated national policies on employment and social protection.** The Global Accelerator supports policy change and integration across several policy realms, notably labour market, social protection, skills development, entrepreneurship and macro/sectoral policy.
- **Pillar 2 – Integrated financing (domestic and international, public and private resources).** The Global Accelerator seeks to close the SDG financing gap by facilitating more effective

public and private investments in tandem with effective fiscal, monetary and financial policies.

- **Pillar 3 – Enhanced multilateral cooperation.** The Global Accelerator enhances technical and financial cooperation between policymakers, the social partners, civil society and the international development community (UN agencies, multilateral development banks and key development partners).

Intended to increase the scope and coordination of national and international efforts, these three interlinked pillars constitute an important

innovation in supporting the creation of decent jobs and universal social protection.

In this context, pooled funds play a unique role within the integrated financing agenda. They allow governments and UN country teams to sequence policy reforms, technical assistance and investment planning in a coherent manner,

supported by a unified financing envelope that can be rapidly deployed and scaled. The Joint SDG Fund's investments demonstrate how pooled funding can unlock public and private resources, strengthen regulatory and fiscal frameworks and support governments in structuring large-scale, sustainable financing solutions for social development.

Theory of Change

The Global Accelerator's "theory of change" envisions that investing in decent jobs and social protection in line with the aforementioned three pillars will enhance demand and productivity, increase formalization and expand the fiscal space, which will in turn encourage further investments (Global Accelerator 2024). This logic is meant to support countries' economic ambitions, such as, the graduation from least developed country status, by helping them to meet targets related to gross national income and economic and environmental vulnerability thresholds, and to enable them to advance on indicators of human development related to education, health and nutrition.

The theory of change is operationalized through a country-led, multi-stakeholder process that takes stock of the progress made towards the SDGs and

identifies relevant gaps and barriers, focusing on decent jobs and social protection. An agenda for acceleration is then proposed, quantified and validated as a Global Accelerator national road map, to be implemented via national policies and programmes and funded through public and private investments. The status of implementation of these road maps is measured in the short-term, with the support of UN system joint programmes, and in the long-term against the progress made by a given country towards the SDGs and its national targets. The overall progress of efforts under the initiative will be assessed with reference to the drivers of change, target groups, assumptions and intervention pathways laid down in the Global Accelerator's results framework.

Results Framework

The Global Accelerator's results framework sets out pathways through which change can be accelerated, the expected results and the methods for measuring and evaluating success. Designed through a consultative process, this framework serves as a benchmark for the development of integrated policy packages and financing approaches that respond to the national priorities of pathfinder countries (Global Accelerator 2024).

The expected results are segmented into three categories:

- **Policy and institutional changes:** The design and effective implementation of

comprehensive policy packages and reforms to legal and regulatory frameworks are essential to achieve the transformative social and economic benefits envisioned under the Global Accelerator.

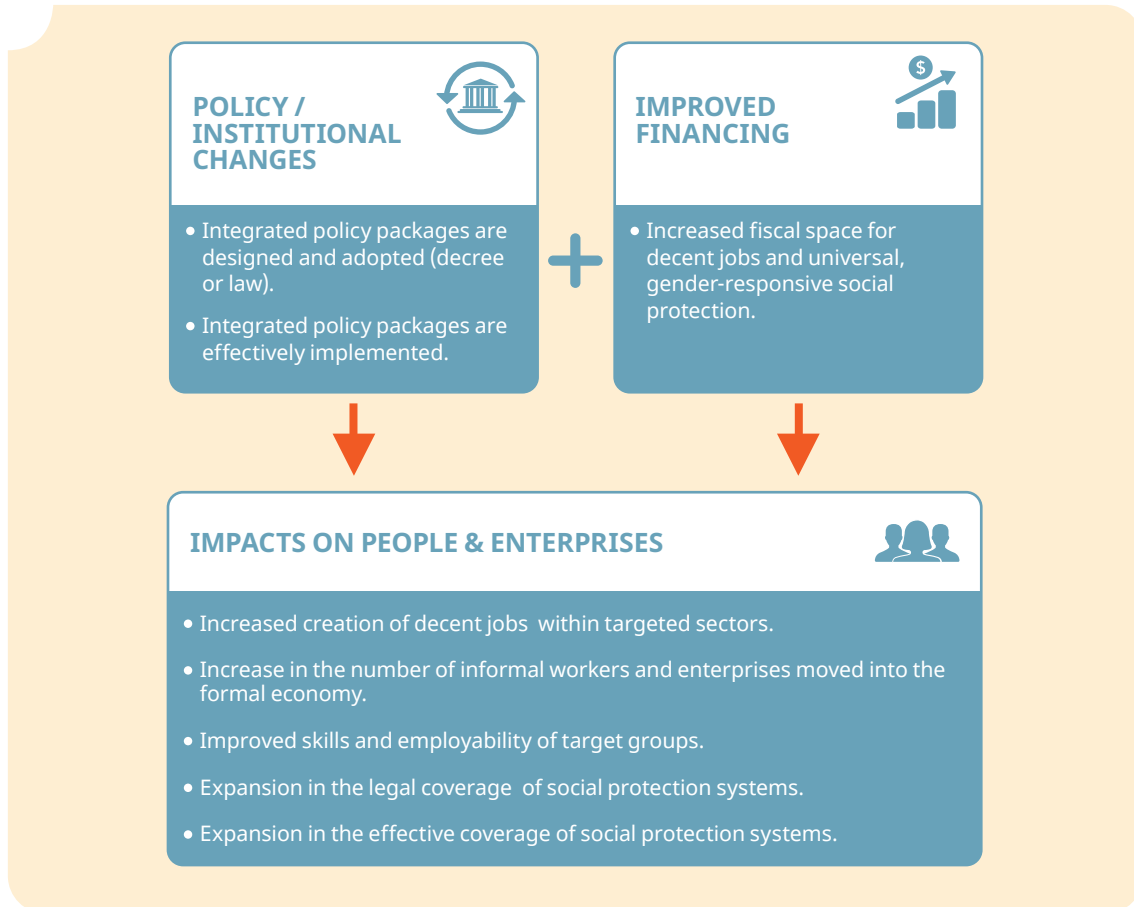
- **Improved financing:** The expansion of fiscal space, increased budgetary allocations and improved budgeting systems are all prerequisites for achieving the initiative's goals.
- **Impact on people and enterprises:** The Global Accelerator's core objectives are to improve livelihoods, increase social equity and achieve just transitions through tangible progress on

the promotion of decent work and the expansion of social protection.

The results framework (summarized in figure 4) was presented to and validated by the

Global Accelerator’s Steering Group on 1 October 2024 and is currently being implemented in pathfinder countries.

Figure 4. The Global Accelerator’s results framework



Source: Global Accelerator (2024).

Governance Structure

The Global Accelerator operates through a multilayered governance structure that combines global strategic guidance with nationally led implementation. This architecture ensures coherence, fosters collaboration among diverse stakeholders, and strengthens the link between

national priorities and global advocacy. It comprises of:

1. Global governance

Global governance is provided through the Steering Group and a dedicated mechanism

to coordinate the UN–World Bank partnership, that is, the Multi-Stakeholder 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).

- **Steering Group:** Established on 20 February 2024, it provides strategic guidance to ensure that the Global Accelerator delivers results at the country level and that the lessons learned from implementation inform and shape global debates on social justice, decent work and social protection. The Steering Group convened five times between May 2024 and December 2025 for:
 - providing guidance on funding rounds and joint programmes;
 - reviewing the progress made by individual countries under the Global Accelerator’s three pillars and endorsing the results framework;
 - strengthening advocacy through participation in major forums such as the Fifth Finance in Common Summit, the G20 Development Working Group, FfD4 and WSSD2;
 - aligning resource mobilization efforts with national commitments and identifying new funding opportunities.
- **M-GA Coordinating Council:** Established on 12 September 2024, it provides strategic guidance for the M-GA funding rounds and activities, renders technical assistance and identifies synergies between the GA and M-GA. Since its establishment, the Coordinating Council has convened four times, focusing on:
 - endorsing its terms of reference;
 - reviewing the results of a rapid assessment of the M-GA;
 - providing strategic guidance for the design of the first and second M-GA funding rounds;
 - reviewing and advising on global knowledge products to ensure responsiveness to countries’ needs and the promotion of good practices.

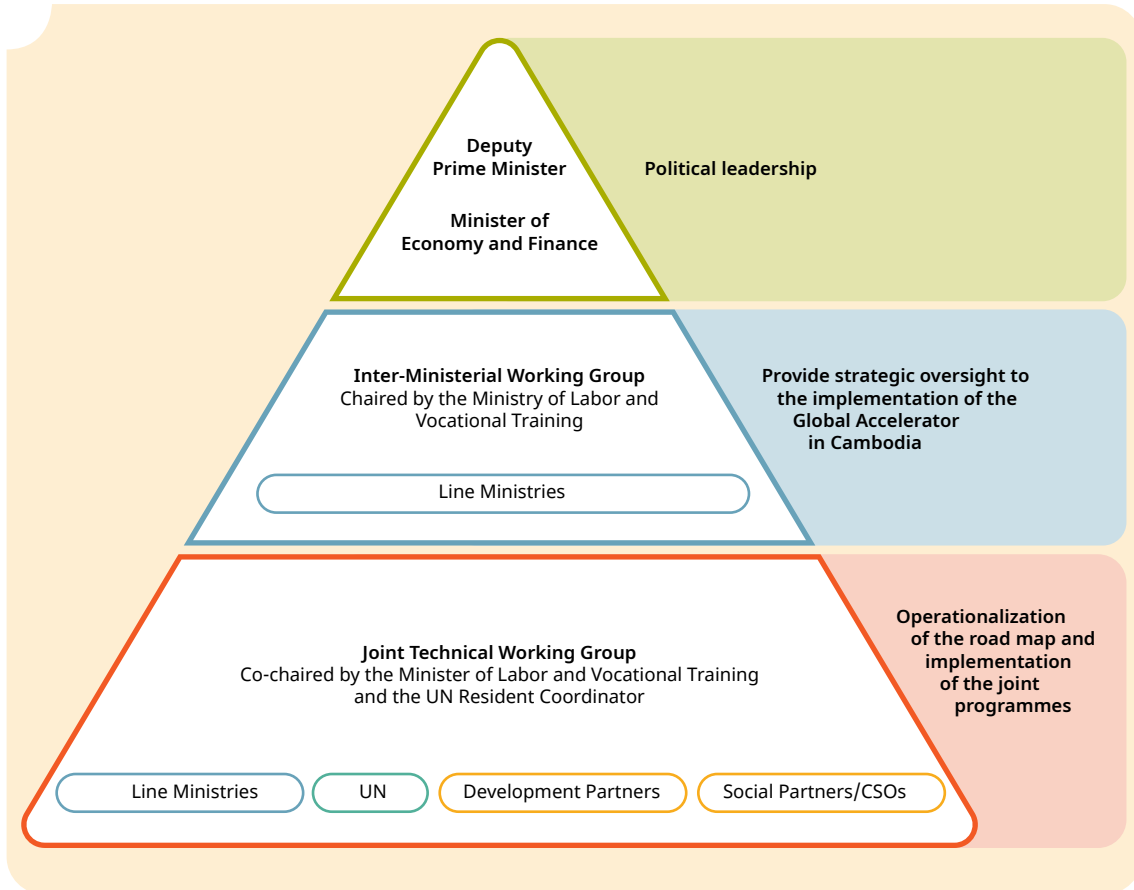
2. Technical Support Facility

Composed of six UN agencies – the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the ILO, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and the World Food Programme (WFP) – and coordinated by the ILO, the Technical Support Facility (TSF) functions as the operational backbone of the Global Accelerator, supporting global advocacy, facilitating coordination, partnership development and resource mobilization, providing technical assistance and developing and sharing knowledge. The TSF is supported by the Joint SDG Fund through a global project and serves as the secretariat of the Global Accelerator’s Steering Group. In the context of the M-GA, it joins forces with the World Bank to provide the secretariat of the M-GA Coordinating Council.

3. National governance structures

At the national level, oversight of the Global Accelerator’s implementation is anchored in national steering committees (NSCs), which in some countries are based on pre-existing coordination mechanisms. NSCs are chaired by a lead ministry or high-level institution with strong convening authority, and include other line ministries, the social partners, civil society, UN Resident Coordinator Offices, UN agencies, donors and public development banks (see figure 5).

Figure 5. Example of a Global Accelerator national governance structure (Cambodia)



In addition to workers' and employers' organizations that contribute to the design and implementation of Global Accelerator national road maps, civil society organizations (CSOs) are also important stakeholders of the initiative. To foster their participation, particularly at the country level, the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors¹ has developed terms of reference for involving CSOs in the work of NSCs, in the drafting of road maps and in the development and implementation of associated projects.

On the whole, the Global Accelerator's governance structure ensures that strategic guidance is grounded in national realities, while technical and operational support remains responsive to evolving needs. The coordinated action helps to overcome institutional fragmentation at the national level by fostering integrated approaches that span various sectors. At the global level,

it provides a unified platform for key actors in the fields of decent jobs and social protection, bringing together governments, the social partners, CSOs, international financial institutions (IFIs), UN agencies and donors. Together, these arrangements enable coherent decision-making, joint implementation, evidence-based advocacy and a growing partnership base that strengthens the Global Accelerator's ability to achieve its objectives. This governance structure also contributes to the overall ambition of the Global Coalition for Social Justice,² of which the Global Accelerator is a flagship initiative.

1 See the website of the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors, <https://www.socialprotectionfloorscoalition.org/>

2 See the website of the Global Coalition for Social Justice, <https://social-justice-coalition.ilo.org/>

Technical Support Facility

The TSF is funded by the Governments of Korea and France, as well as the Joint SDG Fund through a global project to provide technical assistance for the UN and UN-World Bank joint programmes and the global activities of the Global Accelerator. It supports the Global Accelerator's implementation by drawing on national and international expertise from the UN system along with development and financial partners. The TSF is composed of a Coordination Team (representatives from FAO, the ILO, the UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women and the WFP), global/regional hubs of expertise and country teams in charge of a portfolio of development cooperation activities. It operates at the global, regional and national levels to facilitate the Global Accelerator's implementation, leverage existing capacities as required, provide additional support to the UN country teams led by UN Resident Coordinators. The TSF Coordination Team is the official secretariat of the Global Accelerator's Steering Group. The main areas in which the TSF provides support are as follows:

Increased policy influence through global advocacy

Through the advocacy work supported by the TSF and promoted by the members of the Steering Group, the Global Accelerator's potential as a key mechanism for advancing the 2030 Agenda and accelerating progress on sustainable development has been recognized and endorsed at the following high-level events:

Fifth Finance in Common Summit

The Fifth Finance in Common Summit (FiCS), held in Cape Town, South Africa, in February 2025, brought together governments, public development banks (PDBs), the private sector and philanthropic institutions to rethink sustainable finance. During the Summit, the Global Accelerator and the FiCS Coalition for Social Investment organized a breakout session on "Just Transitions and Social Investments", underscoring the importance of investments in social protection systems, skills development, employment creation and other social policies and programmes.

The ILO highlighted how the Structural Model for Sustainable Development could help PDBs to assess the social impact of their investments and improve the design of their operations to maximize their contribution to the SDGs (Global Accelerator 2025a).

Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development

At FfD4 in Sevilla, Spain, a Global Accelerator side event on 3 July 2025 entitled "Leveraging Social Investments: Financing for Jobs and Social Protection" looked at how country-led platforms and multilateral cooperation can enhance national efforts to increase financing for investments in jobs and social protection, and emphasized the role of integrated policies in mobilizing and scaling up financing (Global Accelerator 2025b).

In the lead-up to FfD4, a policy brief prepared by the TSF for the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development made the case for the Global Accelerator's critical role in reducing systemic financing gaps for social protection and decent jobs while mitigating the detrimental impacts of ongoing crises and structural shifts (IATF 2025). The Global Accelerator was also selected as one of the high-impact initiatives under the Sevilla Platform for Action to deliver on the FfD4 commitments.

G20 Development Working Group

G20 under the Presidency of South Africa in 2025: Issued in July 2025, the G20 Development Working Group's "Call to Action: Towards Inclusive, Resilient, and Sustainable Development through Universal Social Protection Systems with Special Priority on Social Protection Floors" encouraged the Global Accelerator and the M-GA to explore innovative approaches to financing, technical assistance and peer-to-peer learning, including through South-South and triangular cooperation (DWG 2025).

G20 under the Presidency of Brazil in 2024: An earlier document prepared by the Development Working Group, "Leaving No One Behind: G20

Development Ministerial Declaration for Reducing Inequalities” (20 July 2024), had similarly recognized the Global Accelerator as a key mechanism in implementing the 2030 Agenda and achieving the SDGs (DWG 2024).

High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

HLPF 2025: Convened in July 2025 under the theme “Advancing Sustainable, Inclusive, Science- and Evidence-Based Solutions for the 2030 Agenda”, the 2025 HLPF reviewed five SDGs, including Goal 8, “Decent work and economic growth”. The UN Secretary-General’s remarks at the ministerial segment of the HLPF and the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the end of the segment formally acknowledged the Global Accelerator and, in particular, its contribution to promoting decent work (UN 2025c; 2025d).

HLPF 2024: The Ministerial Declaration adopted in July 2024 noted “the significance of decent jobs and social protection for eradicating poverty” and commended the Global Accelerator’s role in that regard. It also emphasized the critical importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships, integrated policy planning and inclusive, comprehensive social protection systems and decent jobs in combating inequality and poverty (UN 2024). All of these aspects are reflected in the Global Accelerator’s three interlinked pillars.

Second World Summit on Social Development

The Doha Political Declaration adopted at WSSD2 in November 2025 recognizes that the three core themes of social development – poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all, and social integration – are interrelated and mutually reinforcing. Significantly, it acknowledges the Global Accelerator’s contribution to ensuring full and productive employment and decent work for all (UN 2025e). In that regard, a policy brief prepared by the ILO for WSSD2 highlighted how the Global Accelerator is bringing together governments, the social partners, civil society, financial institutions and the private sector for action (ILO 2025b).

A side event on 4 November 2025 entitled “**Country-led solutions: Integrating decent jobs and social protection for social development**” showcased how combined investments in employment, skills and social protection policies and programmes can help to achieve the three core objectives of social development: poverty eradication; full and productive employment and decent jobs for all; and social integration. The event was co-organized by Belgium, France, Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Nepal, the Republic of Korea, Senegal, Spain and Uzbekistan, along with the World Bank, the Joint SDG Fund, the ILO, FAO, the UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women and the WFP.

Technical support

Throughout the reporting period, the TSF has developed tools and guidance to support pathfinder countries and UN country teams on the ground.

Guidance documents

- 1. Country engagement guidelines:** The *Guidelines for the Inception Phase* (Global Accelerator 2025c) outline an indicative process designed to assist UN personnel and government officials in countries that are considering joining the Global Accelerator initiative. These guidelines have helped to lay the critical groundwork for such countries by engaging and aligning all the key players, and enabled them to become pathfinder countries.
- 2. Guidelines on the development of road maps:** A document entitled “Roadmap Development: Guidelines for Pathfinders” assists countries in designing their Global Accelerator road maps by mapping out the policy context and identifying the interventions and final outcomes to be achieved (Global Accelerator 2025d). During the reporting period, the pathfinder countries that joined the initiative during the inception phase helped to improve and update these guidelines on the basis of their experience so that the Global Accelerator is able to engage with new countries more effectively.
- 3. Results framework:** The TSF coordinated the development of the Results Framework and is continually supporting its application at the country level. In Senegal, for example, a

workshop was held in May 2025 to develop a framework based on three levels of indicators: action-level, thematic outcome/effect and global impact.

4. **Financing strategy guidance:** Based on the initial experiences of several pathfinder countries and responding to concrete requests from Malawi and Uzbekistan, a set of guidelines have been developed to support financing strategies for the implementation of Global Accelerator road maps. Intended to provide pathfinder countries with practical advice on the financing dimension of their road maps, these guidelines have been finalized and will be launched in early 2026.³

Technical tools

1. **Ex-ante impact assessment of policy packages or investments:** The Structural Model for Sustainable Development (SMSD) is a quantitative tool designed to evaluate economic policies and investments with a focus on sustainability and social impact. It supports policymakers and their partners (such as PDBs) in assessing public investment, economic trends and social outcomes to guide decision-making and improve the design of policies and investments. The SMSD provides a structured approach to analysing interventions such as investments and comprehensive policy changes by simulating policy scenarios.⁴
2. **Expanding the quality, scope and country coverage of global data on active labour market policies:** Labour market programmes and activation measures are a critical policy area to advance decent jobs and universal social protection. Expanding the scope and coverage of high-quality data and information on active labour market policies (ALMPs) is essential for the design of evidence-based, impactful policies. Under this initiative, funded by the M-GA with support from the Republic of Korea and launched in March 2025, the ILO and the World Bank are aligning methodologies and tools for the collection of data on ALMPs and coordinating data collection exercises, prioritizing pathfinder countries and other developing countries for which new data can generate valuable, global insights. This collaborative work will feed into the ILO and World Bank's respective data repositories while also fostering opportunities for joint global, regional and country-specific technical assistance, publications and policy discussions.
3. **Macroeconomic diagnostic tool:** Published in September 2024, the practitioner's guide entitled *Macroeconomic Diagnostics for Decent Jobs, Social Protection and Just Transitions* (Islam, Fedi and Verick 2024) supports evidence-based and stakeholder-driven policy dialogue on macroeconomic policies for promoting productive capacities and employment, and the extension of social protection and essential services. In Nepal, technical work based on this guide has been completed and policy-level discussions are awaiting the confirmation of the new Government in 2026. In Senegal, the first phase of corresponding work has been completed to the satisfaction of the General Directorate for Planning and Economic Policy, under the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Cooperation, and the second phase will start in January 2026, involving a broad range of key stakeholders, including workers and businesses, to arrive at policy recommendations for the country's fiscal framework.
4. **Employment and Social Protection Expenditure Review (ESPER):** The aim of ESPER reviews is to examine the adequacy, alignment and efficiency of spending related to employment policies and programmes and social protection systems and to generate evidence-based policy recommendations with a view to enhancing coherence, improving socio-economic outcomes and ensuring fiscal sustainability. A comprehensive ESPER exercise is under way in Cambodia to support the Government in assessing and aligning public expenditure with national employment and social protection policy priorities. The results of the review will provide the basis for monitoring the results and impact of the country's Global Accelerator road map. Paraguay and Viet Nam have asked for employment expenditure reviews only, as

³ See the Financing Strategy note, <https://www.unglobalaccelerator.org/resource/guidelines-development-financing-strategies-global-accelerator-roadmaps>

⁴ See the Global Accelerator landing page for the SMSD, <https://www.unglobalaccelerator.org/resource/structural-model-sustainable-development>

they already have sufficient information on social protection spending.

Missions of the Hub of Expertise

Various missions with teams drawn from the TSF global/regional hubs of expertise have been conducted in pathfinder countries to directly support UN country teams, governments and the social partners in designing, financing and implementing Global Accelerator national road maps. This included assistance with applying the methodologies and tools mentioned above. High-level meetings have also been held with representatives of national governments, the social partners, civil society, donors and PDBs to develop a shared understanding of the Global Accelerator (see box 1 and figure 6).

1. **Cambodia:** Several missions have helped to strengthen the Government’s high-level commitment and to make progress under the Global Accelerator road map. In April 2025, a mission supported a donor information and exchange session convened by the UN Resident Coordinator, identified technical support needs and introduced key tools to guide implementation of the road map. A follow-up mission in June 2025 focused on identifying concrete entry points, target populations and interventions to strengthen the integration between existing and future ALMPs and social protection programmes. It also facilitated the development of a joint workplan with the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training for the implementation of the road map, including technical assistance for the design of an unemployment insurance scheme linked to ALMPs. The data collected
2. **Paraguay:** The TSF supported the further development of integrated policy approaches and delivery mechanisms for ALMPs and social protection in August–September 2025. A concept note on strengthened labour market and social protection policies for decent jobs, social protection for all and just transitions in Paraguay was developed to guide the implementation of the proposed integrated approach. The mission also mapped existing ALMPs using the harmonized ILO–World Bank methodology and delivered a capacity-building workshop to strengthen the public employment service in preparation for the roll-out of the “Emplea PY Joven” programme.
3. **Senegal:** The TSF supported the organization of a training on how to apply the SMSD, and a workshop on the design of the road map and adaptation of the results framework in May 2025. The SMSD was applied in Senegal from November 2024 to September 2025 and has helped in evaluating the effects of infrastructure investments on the household income distribution and the actual job creation potential. It was also used to simulate the macro-economic impacts of several social protection benefit packages and financing options for social protection. The TSF helped in developing a dialogue with the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Cooperation and other key ministries on the importance of social investments as a precondition for just transitions, and of maximizing the social impact of infrastructure investments.

Box 1. Regional-level dialogue for the Global Accelerator pathfinder countries in Asia–Pacific

The Government of Cambodia and the Global Accelerator convened the Asia–Pacific Global Accelerator Policy Forum in Phnom Penh in April 2025, which brought together tripartite delegations from six pathfinder countries – **Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines and Viet Nam** – to take stock of progress and chart the way forward, with a specific focus on integrating social protection and skills development for just transitions. The participating countries presented the progress they had made with the design and implementation of their Global Accelerator road maps. Through thematic sessions they explored integrated strategies encompassing skills, employment, social protection and sustainable financing.

The Forum affirmed the critical role of South–South cooperation in enabling peer learning among countries navigating similar development challenges. Integrated financing emerged as the area in

which countries required the most technical support. Participants highlighted the importance of holding further similar regional events to facilitate cross-country collaboration and enhance the assistance provided by the Technical Support Facility.

Recognizing that the Global Accelerator calls for something different from “business as usual” approaches, the Forum provided a platform for sharing policy innovations that may be applicable in the wider region.

Source: Global Accelerator (2025e).

Image 1: Asia-Pacific Global Accelerator Policy Forum, Cambodia.



Knowledge products:

1. **Knowledge product on climate change and social protection:** The inception phase has been initiated by the World Bank and UNICEF, to conduct a wide-ranging literature review which is currently being used to develop a research framework; it will guide the evidence collection process on how social protection can support poor and vulnerable households to adapt livelihoods, adjust resource use, and improve access to services in the context of escalating climate risks.
2. **Book entitled "Building the Case for the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions":** Based on comprehensive interviews with representatives

of the pathfinder countries, this publication describes the current status of the initiative, what has already been achieved and how countries are adjusting the Global Accelerator approach to their national context. The book will be published and officially launched in June 2026.

Capacity-building

Capacity-building for all stakeholders is another key area of support. The pathfinder countries have thus received assistance with various tools and methodologies (for details, see section 3).

An in-person training developed by the TSF in collaboration with the International Training Centre of the ILO in Turin, Italy, is scheduled for

9 to 13 February 2026. The training covers the foundational concepts of the Global Accelerator, its implementation, and the results framework. By facilitating exchanges among participants and deep dives on concrete examples of the designing, financing and implementation of Global Accelerator national road maps, the training is designed to facilitate South-South technical cooperation and learning. The event targets all stakeholders from pathfinder countries and will also be adapted into

an online toolkit for pathfinder countries, to be launched by the end of 2026.

During the reporting period, several online presentations were delivered to support capacity-building for UN country teams, governments, the social partners and CSOs, thereby increasing awareness of the Global Accelerator at the country level and clarifying the engagement process.

Funding pathways, resource mobilization and partnerships

The Global Accelerator has benefited from pooled, multi-donor financing that aligns global commitments with national priorities. The Joint SDG Fund has provided the principal platform for channeling predictable, flexible resources to support integrated joint programmes and UN–World Bank collaboration on employment and social protection. By pooling contributions from multiple governments, the Fund reduces fragmentation, reinforces country ownership and enables Resident Coordinators to convene diverse UN entities behind a single, coherent offer. This pooled financing model ensures that catalytic investments reach the country level swiftly and are directed towards interventions with the highest potential for systemic impact, including policy reforms, institutional strengthening and integrated skills, employment and social protection measures.

Activities in pathfinder countries have commenced with catalytic funding raised globally. Resource mobilization and swift disbursement at country level continued in 2024–2025.

First funding round launched

The first funding round for the Global Accelerator was launched by the Joint SDG Fund in early 2024, resulting in a funding envelope of **US\$17.8 million**, financed by Belgium, Germany and Spain. This funding helped facilitate the design and implementation of the first 23 UN system joint programmes and UN–World Bank joint programmes

under the Global Accelerator and the M-GA, along with one global project to support the TSF. Details of how the funds were channelled are as follows:

- **Global Accelerator “High Impact Track”** – For **six** advanced-stage pathfinder countries that already had their Global Accelerator national road maps prepared, this catalytic funding (**up to US\$1.8 million per country**) was provided to support the implementation of their road maps over a period of 24 months. The countries benefiting from this funding were **Albania, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malawi, Namibia and Uzbekistan**.
- **Global Accelerator “Seed Funding Track”** – For **eight** early-stage pathfinder countries, this funding (**US\$200,000 per country**) supported the development of results frameworks and studies and consultations to prepare for the design and implementation of the Global Accelerator national road maps. The countries benefiting from this funding were **Cabo Verde, Colombia, Nepal, Paraguay, the Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal and Viet Nam**.
- **M-GA Track** – In **nine** countries, this funding supported **UN–World Bank collaboration** to address shared priorities such as employment, formalization, social protection and skills development, and to support the development of Global Accelerator national road maps. Countries received **US\$250,000** through the Joint SDG Fund and **US\$250,000** from the World Bank. The countries benefiting from this funding were **Cabo Verde, Cambodia,**

Colombia, Indonesia, Nepal, Paraguay, Philippines, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam.

- **TSF global project** – Funding of **US\$3.2 million** was allocated to the TSF to (a) develop tailor-made integrated policy and financing approaches in line with requests submitted by UN country teams, governments, the social partners and other stakeholders, based on the combined expertise of the UN; (b) develop partnerships for further resource mobilization; and (c) consolidate evidence and measure the Global Accelerator’s impact.

Second funding round launched

The second funding round for the M-GA was approved in 2024, and launched by the Joint SDG Fund in May 2025, resulting in a funding envelope on the UN side of around **US\$11.8 million** (contributed by Germany and Ireland) and the same amount on the World Bank side to implement the UN–World Bank joint programmes under the Global Accelerator initiative. This funding supported 24 country-level initiatives and helped to strengthen the UN–World Bank partnership. It was channelled through two tracks:

- The **Pathfinder Track** was open to all the existing pathfinder countries that have made high-level commitments to expanding or strengthening their social protection systems and creating decent and productive jobs for just transitions. Of these, **ten** countries were initially selected for funding under this track: **Albania, Bhutan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malawi, Namibia, Nepal, Paraguay, Rwanda, Senegal and Uzbekistan.**
- The **Thematic Track** was designed to foster increased collaboration between and collective action by the UN and the World Bank in relation to socio-economic fragility, the green transition, climate change and the informal economy. This track was open to a group of pre-selected countries that demonstrated clear benefits from UN–World Bank collaboration; in addition, they were required to ensure that gender considerations and inclusiveness were reflected strongly in their proposals. An initial set of **11** proposals were successful under this track: **Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Georgia, Guatemala and Honduras** (multi-country), **Haiti, Kenya, Sri Lanka, the State**

of Palestine, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Zimbabwe.

The call for proposals generated strong interest and high-quality submissions. Accordingly, additional resources were mobilized for a number of countries under both tracks:

- **Guinea** received funding by the Joint SDG Fund with additional support from Ireland and the World Bank’s Social Protection Response Umbrella Trust Fund as an additional Global Accelerator High Impact Track country.
- **Pakistan** was funded by the Joint SDG Fund to become a Global Accelerator High Impact Track country.
- **Jordan’s** proposal was funded with additional resources from Ireland mobilized through the Joint SDG Fund and the World Bank’s Social Protection Response Trust Fund, to become a thematic track country.

The Global Accelerator and the M-GA are currently overseeing 47 joint programmes on decent jobs and universal social protection, of which 35 are for pathfinder countries and 12 are for non-pathfinder countries.

Other funding sources

- The **Government of the Republic of Korea** provided initial seed funding of US\$500,000 for the period from November 2022 to April 2024 that helped to operationalize the TSF, develop the first versions of several Global Accelerator tools and guidance for Global Accelerator national road maps, and generate knowledge. In June 2024, the Government expanded its commitment by contributing **US\$2.35 million** to fund a project aimed at strengthening the TSF’s capacity to respond to growing country demand. The project focuses on two catalytic policy areas in pathfinder countries: (a) linking ALMPs with skills and social protection; and (b) advancing macro-structural policies to expand fiscal space and drive structural transformation. It supports the strengthening of national policies and institutions in alignment with the Global Accelerator national road maps, through global-level support and country-specific technical assistance. Further information on the project is provided in box 2.

Box 2. The “Delivering on national commitments” project: How the Government of the Republic of Korea is supporting the Global Accelerator

The “**Delivering on national commitments**” project is based on a dual approach that combines the development of global products with country-level technical assistance, ensuring that the Technical Support Facility (TSF) of the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions can respond effectively to the growing demand of pathfinder countries.

At the global level, the project is advancing key technical workstreams of the Global Accelerator by generating methodologies, data and tools that can be applied across all pathfinder countries, including:

- the joint ILO–World Bank global database on active labour market policies (ALMPs)
- the Employment and Social Protection Expenditure Review (ESPER) methodology
- macroeconomic diagnostics
- employment impact assessments
- the Structural Model for Sustainable Development (SMSD)

Together, these resources provide a robust analytical foundation for the design of policies and financing strategies and the development of Global Accelerator results monitoring frameworks.

A key feature of the project is the piloting of an integrated policy diagnostics and dialogue approach, designed to strengthen synergies between ALMPs, public employment services, skills development and social protection, and to promote more coherent institutional arrangements. Cambodia and Paraguay were selected to test this integrated support model in view of the strong national demand in both countries, the model’s alignment with the priorities identified in their respective road maps, and their institutional readiness.

In Cambodia, the project seeks to support the strengthening of linkages between ALMPs, skills development and social protection schemes as a pathway to formalization. It is also contributing to analytical and institutional work related to unemployment protection and the extension of social protection, and supporting improved coordination among institutions responsible for employment, technical and vocational education and training, social assistance and social insurance. All of these efforts are aligned with the country’s Global Accelerator road map.

In Paraguay, the project is supporting the implementation of the Global Accelerator national road map by contributing to the “Emplea PY Joven” programme, supporting formalization efforts within the supply chain under the “Hambre Cero” programme and reinforcing institutional coordination in relation to employment, formalization and social protection.

The project has supported nine pathfinder countries so far (Cambodia, Guinea, Malawi, Namibia, Nepal, Paraguay, Rwanda, Senegal, Viet Nam) through activities aligned with their road map priorities.

By virtue of this combination of global products and country-tailored technical support, the project funded by the Republic of Korea is contributing to the coherent implementation of national road maps and supporting the Global Accelerator’s objective of strengthening labour market and social protection policies to promote the creation of decent jobs, universal social protection and just transitions.

- The **Government of France** is supporting Senegal with **€300,000** to develop its Global Accelerator road map, a process underpinned by an impact measurement modelling exercise to guide policy and investment decisions. France is building strategic partnerships with a wide range of stakeholders to mobilize support for reforms and financing for jobs and social protection in Senegal while strengthening institutional and stakeholder capacities through targeted training to ensure that the road map is aligned with evolving national priorities. France is also supporting implementation of the Global Accelerator in West Africa (Cabo Verde, Guinea and Senegal) by seconding a French expert for at least two years.
- In addition to its global contribution through the Joint SDG Fund and the World Bank's Social Protection Response Umbrella Trust Fund, the **Government of Ireland** has supported the launching of the Global Accelerator initiative in two pathfinder countries – Malawi and Viet Nam – through its contributions to the ILO flagship programme “Building Social Protection Floors for All”.

New partnerships and strengthened collaboration

- **SOCIEUX+**: A new partnership has been established with SOCIEUX+ (EU Expertise on Social Protection, Labour and Employment), a facility for technical cooperation between public and social partner peers established and co-funded by the European Union (EU). As a concrete outcome of this engagement, the Government of Pakistan has developed a project together with SOCIEUX+ and the Employers' Federation of Pakistan that will integrate corporate sustainability due diligence and just transition principles into tripartite social dialogue, aligning the Federation's constituency strategies with climate goals and a gender perspective. ILO–SOCIEUX+ joint activities for the benefit of labour ministries and social security institutions have also been discussed in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.
- **Donor round table**: To continue joint resource mobilization, the TSF and the World Bank jointly hosted a donor round table in May 2025 to reaffirm the commitment to coordinated

action among the UN, the World Bank and other partners for accelerating progress towards the creation of decent and productive jobs and universal social protection. The event was attended by current and prospective donors and partners of the Global Accelerator and the M-GA.

- **Development of joint projects with public development banks:**

The Global Accelerator is working with PDBs in several pathfinder countries to support the alignment of their investments with Global Accelerator national

road maps, co-develop joint projects, improve the social impacts of financing operations and build capacity among staff to strengthen collaboration between the UN and IFIs. The ILO has engaged in some discussions and coordinated activities with the French Development Agency (AFD), which decided to extend policy-based loans to Uzbekistan related to climate change and just transitions. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide policy-based loans in 2027 related to the governance of the Pension Fund of Uzbekistan.

- **Engagement with development partners at the country level:**

- **Uzbekistan**

- **German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ):**

A new three-year project commenced in November 2025 to continue to support the National Agency for Social Protection (NASP) in four thematic areas: (a) policy advice; (b) digitalization; (c) capacity-building for social workers; and (d) integration of persons with disabilities.

- **Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW):**

An agreement on a new policy-based loan will be signed with the Ministry of

“The M-GA unites the players in social protection. By providing a helpful nudge to collaborate and helping all the institutions speak the same language, we can boost our efficiency”

– Ms Ariane Hildebrandt, former Director-General for Global Health, Equality of Opportunity, Digital Technologies and Food Security, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany.

Economy and Finance and will integrate into it the long-term sustainability of the interventions being undertaken with the National Agency for Social Protection.

- The **Embassy of Spain** has shown interest in the development of Global Accelerator projects, and a concept note has been shared with the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID).

- The **World Bank**, the **ILO**, the **International Monetary Fund** and the **Asian Development Bank** prepared a joint policy note to support the pension reform undertaken in Uzbekistan as part of the country's Global Accelerator road map.

○ Democratic Republic of the Congo

- Discussions are under way with **Enabel**, the Belgian agency for international cooperation, to explore the possibility of deploying universal health coverage and continue the work on financing of the social protection system and the definition of informal workers' contribution rates, building on the ILO's previous work in the area.

○ Cambodia

- **Asian Development Bank support for skills development in Cambodia:** Discussions with the ADB continue to progress, with the current focus being on the next phase of Cambodia's Skills for Future Economy Sector Development Programme. Early indications suggest potential areas of convergence with the Global Accelerator road map, including the improvement of sector-based governance structures to strengthen the links between skills development, lifelong learning and progression to decent employment.

○ Malawi

- **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) support for skills development, youth employment and social protection:** The ILO has engaged in discussions with IFAD to establish a strategic partnership aimed at scaling

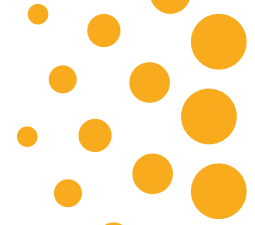
up integrated agribusiness hubs and youth employment initiatives. As part of efforts to mobilize resources and unlock additional funding, the ILO and IFAD jointly organized a donor round table in May 2025, which showcased the potential and impact of employment creation within the agriculture sector. The round table served as a platform for dialogue with key development partners, including China, Germany, Iceland and Ireland, and for advocating the expansion of the second phase of the IFAD–ILO programme on integrated agribusiness hubs. Under the IFAD-funded ProAgro YOUTH Programme, the Global Accelerator joint programme collaborated with IFAD to develop a concept note aimed at unlocking additional resources for scaling up these hubs. The proposed model incorporates social protection measures to extend coverage to agricultural workers, ensuring inclusive and sustainable growth. These activities have laid the groundwork for increased investment in agriculture-driven employment and social protection.

○ Nepal

- The ILO has held discussions with the **Asian Development Bank** to potentially align the Bank's investments with Nepal's Global Accelerator road map. The ADB's Country Partnership Strategy for Nepal for 2025–29 refers to "promoting private sector-led, employment-intensive, and green economic transformation" as its first priority. The Global Accelerator road map can help to identify the sectors and projects where ADB investments can yield the best results in terms of job creation and the extension of social protection.

○ Namibia

- The Development Bank of Namibia has expressed interest in partnering with the Global Accelerator. Discussions have also been held with the African Development Bank and the KfW to expand the work on skills, labour market information systems and jobs.



Section
3

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Section 3. Country results achieved

Since May 2024, an additional five countries have joined the Global Accelerator initiative, taking the total number of pathfinder countries to 19 as at December 2025. These countries are at different stages of the development and implementation of their road maps (see table 1). The present section provides a detailed overview of each country’s progress and highlights the key achievements.

Table 1. Progress made in Global Accelerator pathfinder countries, May 2024–December 2025

| | | High-level commitment | National Steering Committee established | Road map designed | Financing strategy developed | Results monitoring framework designed | Funding and financial investments aligned with road map mobilized | New law or policy designed | Project to pilot Global Accelerator intervention launched | Impact on people visible |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---|-------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Advanced-stage pathfinder countries | Albania | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Ongoing | Completed | Completed | Completed |
| | Cambodia | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed |
| | Indonesia | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed |
| | Malawi | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed |
| | Namibia | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed |
| | Paraguay | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed |
| | Uzbekistan | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed |
| Early-stage pathfinder countries | Cabo Verde | Completed | Completed | Ongoing | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed |
| | Colombia | Completed | Completed | Ongoing | Completed | Ongoing | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed |
| | Nepal | Completed | Completed | Ongoing | Completed | Completed | Ongoing | Completed | Completed | Completed |
| | Philippines | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Ongoing | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed |
| | Rwanda | Completed | Completed | Ongoing | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed |
| | Senegal | Completed | Completed | Ongoing | Completed | Completed | Completed | Ongoing | Completed | Completed |
| | Viet Nam | Completed | Completed | Ongoing | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed |
| New pathfinder countries | Bhutan | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed |
| | Democratic Republic of the Congo | Completed | Completed | Ongoing | Completed | Completed | Ongoing | Completed | Completed | Completed |
| | Guinea | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed |
| | Pakistan | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed |
| | Tunisia | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed | Completed |

Legend: ■ Activity completed
■ Activity ongoing

This section also lists the projects developed through calls for proposals organized by the joint SDG Fund and the GA TSF, and financed by the Global Accelerator’s donors: Belgium, Germany, Ireland and Spain. Additional funds have been mobilized from France and the Republic of Korea for certain pathfinder countries and activities. The allocations received by each pathfinder country are shown in table 2. The countries in this section are sorted by the stage at which they were during the first Global Accelerator funding round (advanced stage and early stage), followed by countries that subsequently joined the initiative as pathfinder countries.

Table 2. Funding allocated to Global Accelerator pathfinder countries through the funding rounds organized by the Joint SDG Fund and the GA TSF in 2024 and 2025 (in US dollars)

| | GA-HIT | GA-SFT | M-GA round 1 | M-GA round 2 | Total received or allocated to date |
|--|-----------|---------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| | 1 800 000 | n/a | n/a | 260 000 | 2 060 000 |
| | 1 800 000 | n/a | 250 000 | n/a | 2 050 000 |
| | 1 800 000 | n/a | 250 000 | n/a | 2 050 000 |
| | 1 800 000 | n/a | n/a | 260 000 | 2 060 000 |
| | 1 800 000 | n/a | n/a | 850 000 | 2 650 000 |
| | n/a | 200 000 | 250 000 | 500 000 | 950 000 |
| | 1 800 000 | n/a | 250 000 | 500 000 | 2 550 000 |
| | n/a | 200 000 | 250 000 | n/a | 450 000 |
| | n/a | 200 000 | 250 000 | n/a | 450 000 |
| | n/a | 200 000 | 250 000 | 500 000 | 950 000 |
| | n/a | 200 000 | 250 000 | n/a | 450 000 |
| | n/a | 200 000 | n/a | 850 000 | 1 050 000 |
| | n/a | 200 000 | n/a | 850 000 | 1 050 000 |
| | n/a | 200 000 | 250 000 | n/a | 450 000 |
| | n/a | n/a | n/a | 850 000 | 850 000 |
| | n/a | n/a | n/a | 850 000 | 850 000 |
| | n/a | n/a | n/a | 1 050 000 | 1 050 000 |
| | n/a | n/a | n/a | 850 000 | 850 000 |
| | n/a | n/a | n/a | 910 000 | 910 000 |
| | | | | | 23,730,000 |

n/a = not applicable.
 GA-HIT = Global Accelerator “High Impact Track”; GA-SFT = Global Accelerator “Seed Funding Track”; M-GA = Multi-Stakeholder Engagement to Implement the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions and the World Bank Social Protection and Jobs Compass.
 Note: The allocations shown for the M-GA funding rounds refer only to those from the United Nations system. Additional resources have been allocated to World Bank teams on the ground to implement UN-World Bank joint programmes.

Advanced-stage pathfinder countries

Albania

1. Vision

The Global Accelerator initiative is supporting Albania's sustainable development trajectory and alignment with pursuit of European Union integration goals. It will help the country to expand social protection, create decent jobs – especially for women, youth and persons with disabilities – and foster inclusive economic growth. By enhancing the design of relevant policies, in particular those related to skills development, and securing sustainable financing, the Global Accelerator aims to reduce inequalities, promote gender equality and support Albania's progress towards the SDGs.

2. Governance and coordination

The Deputy Prime Minister confirmed Albania's high-level commitment on 1 August 2023. The national road map was validated and endorsed by the Government in June 2024.

The Ministry of Economy Innovation is the lead government institution tasked with implementing the Global Accelerator initiative in Albania and plays a key coordinating role across ministries and agencies to ensure its success. The Ministry of Health and Social Protection is co-leading the initiative. Albania has built its Global Accelerator governance structure around existing mechanisms used for the 2030 Agenda and EU accession processes. There are two levels of governance:

- **High-level coordination:** The Interministerial Committee on the SDGs – chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and comprising representatives of the Government, business, civil society, the social partners, academia and international partners – functions as the high-level coordination body for the Global Accelerator.
- **Technical coordination:** The Integrated Policy Management Group for the Development of Human Capital, established within priority areas and sectors to move the country closer to EU accession, provides technical coordination

for the Global Accelerator, covering employment, social protection, healthcare, education, skills, innovation, gender equality and support for marginalized groups.

A Steering Committee has been established for the UN system joint programme “Lifelong Empowerment and Protection in Albania” (LEAP), which is contributing to the implementation of the Global Accelerator road map in Albania. The Committee is composed of representatives at the political and technical levels, including officials of the co-leading ministries along with representatives of the National Agency for Employment and Skills and the State Social Services, as well as the social partners. Employers' and workers' organizations, CSOs, municipalities and UN agencies actively participate in the Committee's work.

Albania is advancing the implementation of its road map through a multifaceted and coordinated approach that emphasizes national ownership, partnership-building and resource mobilization.

3. Key highlights, activities and outcomes

“By joining the Global Accelerator, and through road map implementation, we are not only addressing immediate social and economic challenges but also investing in a future where every citizen – especially women, youth and persons with disabilities – can access decent jobs and robust social protection. This initiative is about building resilience, fostering inclusion and ensuring that no one is left behind as we pursue sustainable development and European Integration.”

– Ms Olta Manjani, Deputy Minister of Economy and Innovation

Image 2. High-level field visit to LEAP project locations.



The implementation of the Global Accelerator initiative in Albania has been supported by a UN system joint programme funded by the Joint SDG Fund through the High Impact Track. Specifically, the UNDP, UNICEF and the ILO are implementing the “Lifelong Empowerment and Protection in Albania” (LEAP) programme, which is designed to promote inclusive and increased employment, skills development and social protection, with a focus on child benefits, family support, enhanced quality of care services and gender equality.

To ensure that their impact is sustainable and complementary to the country’s priorities, Global Accelerator activities under the LEAP programme are in line with the National Social Protection Strategy for 2024–30⁵ and the National Employment and Skills Strategy for 2023–30. The programme leverages strong collaboration with IFIs to mobilize financial resources and technical expertise, to ensure interventions are embedded within broader national reform agendas. It is also aligned with Albania’s integrated national financing framework to ensure coherence between financing strategies and national development objectives. Some of the key activities under

the LEAP programme are detailed below:

- The **Global Accelerator road map was validated and endorsed** by the Government in June 2024.
- In response to Albania’s rapidly aging population, LEAP is supporting the redesign of long-term care as both a social right and a source of decent employment. **A long-term care (LTC) model is being piloted in six municipalities, combining service expansion with job creation, particularly for women, and a customized LTC workforce training curriculum was developed** and nationally adopted by the national employment and skills agency, Agjencia Kombëtare e Punësimit dhe Aftësive (AKPA) in line with the National Ageing Plan for 2025–30. This is helping to promote employment in the care sector, particularly for women, and making the case for LTC policies to be integrated into Albania’s social protection system.
- **Over 140 women and youth have received professional certification, 100+ have been employed** and placed to provide integrated LTC services to 500+ households.

5 See the Deputy Minister’s speech for WSSD2, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gc8YFifSbto>

- A national study on ageing assessed the supply and demand for long-term care, providing the **first evidence base** to inform national planning, financing and alignment with the National Ageing Plan.
- To promote child well-being outcomes, a **Universal Child Benefit (UCB) scheme was introduced and designed, including its financing component**, and the Universal Progressive Home Visiting (UPHV) model is being operationalized. The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare is anchoring these reforms in the National Social Protection Strategy 2024–2030 aiming at increasing the fiscal space and coverage for children in Albania.
- **Through 2,400 visits, 1,600 children (0-5) have been reached out to** using the UPHV approach, and further advocacy for the adoption of a universal child benefit is being undertaken.
- Costed policy scenarios for introducing the UCB scheme to provide credible, **evidence-based options for its gradual expansion**, aligned with the fiscal space. The UN joint programme has supported the government in developing a new public financing pathway for child-focused social protection through the design of a UCB scheme, contributing to a government-led financing mix anchored in national budget allocations and embedded within existing social protection and payment systems.
- This has helped **attract and align substantial long-term investment**: a €28 million EU programme on employment and social inclusion running through 2031, a €3.1 million EU social care initiative across 14 municipalities through 2027, and over €55 million in aligned government funding.
- Based on an **integrated model of service delivery, municipal partnerships are supporting 340 families receiving economic assistance by providing them with additional services** such as home visits, psychosocial support, parenting sessions, mentoring and employment referral pathways.



Albania's road map in focus

Albania's road map includes the following priority areas:

- strengthening adaptive social protection for persons with disabilities through a reform of disability benefits, inclusive employment and skills development policies, and early-age support
- building an inclusive social protection system for economic security and social equity
- facilitating increased private sector involvement in TVET programmes, with a special emphasis on digital and entrepreneurship skills development for youth and women, particularly those from vulnerable communities and in rural areas
- strengthening INFF management to improve coordination, efficiency and sustainability of financing for employment and social protection.

An overview of the road map is available [here](#).⁶

- A total of **340 marginalized households have been reached out to**, increasing their access to essential services and fostering inclusion. Partnerships with local authorities and non-governmental organizations expanded care provision to over 500 families in need.
- The **"Journey towards Employment" programme**, a component of the LEAP programme, provided **vulnerable young people (aged 14–18 years) with life skills and career guidance to prevent dropout and enhance job readiness**.
- **Rolled out in 15 municipalities**, the programme trained **40 instructors** and was offered **mainly to women and youth**

⁶ See the Albania road map, <https://www.unglobalaccelerator.org/albanias-global-accelerator-roadmap-towards-jobs-and-social-protection-just-transitions>

(including 634 with NEET status), to further train them in soft, digital and green skills across Vocational Training Centers, while strengthening institutional and human capacities across employment, VET and psychosocial services.

- In total, 85 professionals—including VET instructors, career guidance coordinators, psychologists, social workers and employment specialists—were trained, **enhancing inter-institutional cooperation and the quality of employment and career guidance services.**
- Local **ALMP pilots in tourism and hospitality** supported over 300 vulnerable beneficiaries with training, mentorship and job placement.
- **Digital skills training curricula are being co-designed** with the AKPA to address rural women’s skill gaps and labour market demands, alongside financial literacy and entrepreneurship workshops for women caregivers.
- **Marginalized women, who are particularly impacted by structural economic shifts, are being supported through skills needs assessments** that have been initiated, along with the planning of mobile training units and digital platforms. Outreach materials are being developed to target at least 500 women for training (including training on financial literacy) and mentorship.
- **A regional skills development and employment road map has been developed for the hotel and tourism sector**, and further activation measures are being designed with a focus on women and youth (such as a traineeship programme, a voucher scheme and a youth guarantee programme).

- **Albania’s first national, Tourism Formalization road map has been co-created** via tripartite workshops drawing on 24 EU practices, and it outlines digital registration, incentives, and compliance for small enterprises, with pilots planned in Korçë.

LEAP has demonstrated a scalable, evidence-based, EU-convergent human capital development agenda that has expanded and created strong policy synergies between social protection, skills, and decent work, by strengthening both income security and care services.

4. Next steps and latest updates

- The programme plans to scale up the LTC pilots to include more households, reach out to a further 1,500 children through home visits, enhance employability for marginalized groups, continue mentoring and skills training for those already trained, and finalize the sectoral road maps so that they can start to be implemented.
- Albania has been selected to receive funding under the Pathfinder Track of the second M-GA funding round and started implementing the corresponding activities in the final quarter of 2025.

Cambodia

1. Vision

Cambodia joined the initiative in July 2023. The Global Accelerator is supporting the creation of decent jobs and the expansion of social protection systems to drive sustainable and inclusive economic growth in line with the country's Pentagonal Strategy Phase I, which was designed to enable Cambodia's graduation from least developed country status by 2029 and to lay the groundwork for the Cambodia Vision 2050.

2. Governance and coordination

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance confirmed Cambodia's high-level commitment to the Global Accelerator in July 2023. Cambodia's Global Accelerator road map was validated and endorsed by the Prime Minister in December 2024.

Political leadership of the Global Accelerator initiative in Cambodia rests with the Ministry of Economy and Finance, while practical operations are led by the Interministerial Working Group (IMWG) established by the Government in April 2025 and chaired by the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training. The IMWG brings together 25 senior representatives of key ministries, national institutions and councils to steer the implementation of the Global Accelerator road map. The IMWG liaises closely with the Joint Technical Working Group (JTWG), which is comprised of the same line ministries and also UN agencies, social partners and the development partners, co-chaired by the Minister of Labour and Vocational Training and the UN Resident Coordinator. JTWG is supported by a dedicated Secretariat, which is responsible for coordination, monitoring and reporting.

Image 3. Cambodia's Deputy Prime Minister at the Asia Pacific Global Accelerator Policy Forum, Phnom Penh.



3. Key highlights, activities and outcomes

“When people enjoy employment, they can contribute to social protection, and when they are in need, the social protection will mitigate their risk and challenge ... The Global Accelerator is not a burden, but a complement and will help the country to accelerate progress towards the SDGs.”

– Mr Heng Sour, Minister of Labour and Vocational Training.

The implementation of the Global Accelerator initiative in Cambodia has been supported by a UN system joint programme funded by the Joint SDG Fund through the High Impact Track and implemented by the ILO, UNICEF and the UNDP. This is complemented by an additional UN system joint programme launched as part of the first M-GA funding round and implemented by UNICEF, the ILO and the World Bank. In addition, two ILO projects: one at the country level “Support for the implementation of the Global Accelerator in Cambodia”, and another global level project “Delivering on national commitments: Korea’s support to the implementation of the Global Accelerator” are supporting the implementation of Cambodia’s Global Accelerator road map.

Key activities under the joint programmes and single agency projects are detailed below:

- The **Joint Technical Working Group (JTWG)** was formally established through a decision signed by the Minister of Labour and Vocational Training to oversee implementation of the country’s roadmap implementation, in 2025. The JTWG:
 - Serves as a **coordination platform**, bringing together line ministries, including the Ministry of Economy and Finance, Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training, Ministry of Social Affairs Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation, and others as well as relevant government institutions such as National Social Security Fund and National



Cambodia’s road map in focus

Cambodia’s road map includes the following priority areas:

- accelerating inclusive and sustainable growth by linking the creation of decent jobs with the expansion of social protection and the adoption of pro-employment macroeconomic and financing policies
- fostering skills development and TVET to enhance employability, productivity and inclusion
- achieving greater coherence between employment and social protection systems to promote formalization, sectoral growth and productivity
- expanding social protection coverage, particularly with a view to achieving universal health coverage and improved income security for all
- creating an enabling environment for an inclusive labour market by supporting the development of the care economy and removing barriers that prevent persons with disabilities, women, the poor and other vulnerable groups from accessing the labour market.

Read the full road map [here](#).⁷

Social Protection Council, UN agencies, employers’ and workers’ organizations and development partners.

- Oversees the **road map implementation**, and coordinates action across stakeholders and joint programmes.
- Is leading the **development of the monitoring and evaluation framework** for the roadmap and also the financing strategy.
- To enhance local capacities for the **tracking of social protection expenditure**, the joint

⁷ See the Cambodia road map, https://www.unglobalaccelerator.org/sites/default/files/2026-05/17032026_EN_Cambodia_Roadmap_For_GA_New_Layout_update%20%281%29.pdf

programmes supported the development and roll-out of the **Commune/Sangkat Budget Monitoring app**.

- The aim is to unlock around **US\$20 million** to support social protection programmes, including disability identification and social assistance packages for families.
- The joint programmes have enabled the sub-national authorities to become increasingly engaged in the **implementation and budget monitoring** of social assistance programmes.
- An **evaluation framework for the voluntary health insurance scheme** was finalized with the Government to assess the financial sustainability of several scenarios for the expansion of coverage while ensuring the system's resilience. This will help in revising the scheme's regulatory framework.
 - Analytical work has been undertaken on the **Voluntary Health Insurance (VHI)** scheme for self-employed workers to assess coverage, contribution levels, enrolment trends and operational performance to provide evidence for the sustainability of the scheme and explore the way to transition from a voluntary scheme to mandatory.
 - The voluntary health insurance scheme has **expanded coverage to around 373,000 self-employed** workers and their dependents.
- A **Graduation-Based Social Protection (GBSP) programme** was developed and approved by the Ministry of Economy and Finance. A total of **US\$2.35 million** has been allocated from the national budget to fund the programme's implementation.
 - The programme, **launched in December 2025**, aims to support **200,000 vulnerable households** in transitioning **from social assistance to sustainable livelihoods** by 2035, beginning with an initial rollout targeting 5,000 households in its first year.
 - **Training and orientation** were conducted for 160 sub-national officials and youth volunteers to support the rollout of GBSP.
- Under the Global Accelerator framework, technical assistance supported the design, institutionalization and costing of these reforms within national systems, helping align them with domestic financing. The programmes leverage more than **US\$60 million in co-financing**, including through the national budget allocations and voluntary health insurance contributions.
- The joint programmes are supporting the phased implementation of the **Digital Social Protection Platform** and the **Social Protection Registry**, strengthening the institutional capacity, data governance and interoperability of Cambodia's various social protection schemes in order to lay the foundations for national scale-up and improve their efficiency and accountability.
- The design and launch of the **monitoring and evaluation framework** for the **National Strategy for the Development of the Informal Economy (NSDIE)** were supported through national and subnational consultations with over 900 stakeholders. The Strategy is aimed at supporting informal economy actors through investment, entrepreneurship, skills development, sustainable livelihoods and social protection.
- The joint programmes supported the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training in developing a **gender-sensitive financing strategy** for the Global Accelerator road map through the costing of all programmes that will be included in the National Financing Policy Framework (2050 Strategy).
- **Existing active labour market policies and programmes were mapped** to identify entry points for the strengthening of linkages and the creation of synergies between ongoing and future ALMPs and activation programmes on the one hand, and social protection interventions on the other.
- With the support of the ILO and other UN partners, the Government **co-hosted the Asia-Pacific Global Accelerator Policy Forum in April 2025**, bringing together six pathfinder countries from the region (Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines and Viet Nam) and stakeholders to exchange national innovations, foster regional dialogue and strengthen collaboration on the integration

of skills promotion, employment policies and social protection within national development strategies.

- Through national validation workshops and international benchmarking, the **reform of the Sector Skills Councils (SSCs)** is being advanced. Additionally, structural reforms in skills governance are being advanced through the review and validation of the SSC's, linking TVET more closely to labour market demand and formalization pathways.
 - This reform process **supports improvements in SSC mandates**, governance structures and employer engagement, strengthens public-private dialogue, and aligns skills development with labour market demand.
- The **Skills for Trade and Economic Diversification (STED) and Skills for Productivity, Environment, and Economic Diversification (SPEED) methodologies** are helping identify sectors with high job creation and diversification potential and to link skills planning with structural transformation objectives. These efforts feed into the ongoing revision of the National Employment Policy and the TVET Policy (2026–2035), embedding forward-looking and evidence-based planning into national labour market institutions.
- The M-GA is strengthening UN-World Bank collaboration in Cambodia by **leveraging complementary mandates and technical expertise to support the implementation of the Global Accelerator road map**. The relevant joint programme is enhancing policy coherence and operational learning across social protection and skills development systems, evidence-based decision-making and delivery on a large scale.
 - Under the joint programme, impact and process evaluations of the Family Package will **assess the effectiveness of that programme's design and delivery** and its impacts on adequacy, human capital development and shock responsiveness, also from a gender perspective. This evidence-based approach is informing policy adjustments and strengthening accountability in social assistance delivery.
 - Conducted during the early roll-out of the Global Accelerator initiative, these

evaluations will **inform efficiency improvements and shock readiness throughout the delivery chain**, including within the National Social Assistance Fund.

- On the employment side, the joint programme focuses on **strengthening the responsiveness of the technical and vocational education and training (TVET) system through improved engagement with industry and gender-responsive institutional and delivery frameworks**, alongside better integration of cross-cutting skills, including cognitive, “green” and behavioural skills.
- Combining **technical expertise** (specifically that of UNICEF, the WFP and the World Bank in designing the Family Package; and that of the ILO in relation to sector skills councils) with **operational engagement**, the M-GA leverages comparative advantages of the UN and the World Bank, and enhances **coherence across social protection, cash transfer and TVET interventions** and supports **strengthening the coordinated systems of social protection and skills development**.

4. Next steps and latest updates

- The national-level results monitoring framework for the Global Accelerator will be finalized and endorsed by the Government.
- A financing strategy for the Global Accelerator road map is being developed.
- A full evaluation of the voluntary health insurance scheme will be finalized in collaboration with the National Social Security Fund and the General Secretariat of the National Social Protection Council, the aim being to assess actuarial and policy options for enhancing coverage and financial sustainability.
- Following a mapping of care systems, the public and private financing of care services will be evaluated in order to support the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training in strengthening child-care provision.
- A comprehensive employment and social protection related public expenditure review will be undertaken to assess and align public expenditure with national employment and social

protection policy priorities. The review will provide the basis for monitoring the implementation of the Global Accelerator road map and generate evidence-based recommendations to enhance policy coherence, socio-economic outcomes and fiscal sustainability.

- Following the launch of the monitoring and evaluation framework for the National Strategy for Informal Economy Development, the Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation will receive support so that it can scale up national and subnational capacity-building and awareness raising activities and service outreach to informal economy operators.
- Ex ante policy simulations will be performed using the SMSD. The simulations will allow the assessment of how different policy options, such as investments in social protection,

launching an unemployment insurance scheme, recognition of prior learning, and impacts of tariffs and trade shocks, may affect economic growth, employment creation, income distribution, and household welfare in Cambodia. Through a capacity-building programme, the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training, Ministry of Economy and Finance and other relevant stakeholders, including the National Institute of Statistics, National Social Security Fund and General Secretariat of the National Social Protection Council, will strengthen their capacity to apply modelling methodologies, including the SMSD, for policy analysis and evidence based policy making and produce a series of research papers and briefs aligned with national policy priorities.

- A costing of the national disability identification programme will be conducted.

Indonesia

1. Vision

Indonesia joined the Global Accelerator initiative in order to improve access to employment, social services and social protection for vulnerable groups, including the poor, women, children, persons with disabilities and those living in climate-vulnerable areas.

2. Governance and coordination

The Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS) confirmed Indonesia's high-level commitment to the Global Accelerator in June 2023. BAPPENAS is leading the implementation of the Global Accelerator road map, a process coordinated through four thematic working groups dealing with: (a) social protection and data integration; (b) social, care and labour services for vulnerable groups; (c) programmes adaptability for just transition; and (d) equal and extensive skills development for all. Validated in June 2025, Indonesia's Global Accelerator road map is designed to contribute to social and economic

transformation by enhancing access to inclusive, transparent and digitalized social protection systems and building a competitive, demand-based, and productive labour force through TVET and skills development. This is aligned with national strategies to reduce poverty, strengthen social equity, boost workforce capabilities and achieve decent work for all.

3. Key highlights, activities and outcomes

“Indonesia’s Global Accelerator road map and its joint programmes support three national priorities of the National Medium-Term Development Plan for 2025–29 and are aligned with the President’s ‘quick-win’ programmes.”

– Mr Febrian Alphyanto Ruddyard, Deputy Minister for National Development Planning.

Image 4. Launch of the UN system joint programmes related to the Global Accelerator in Indonesia.



The implementation of the Global Accelerator initiative in Indonesia has been supported by a UN system joint programme funded by the Joint SDG Fund through the High Impact Track and implemented by the ILO, the UNDP and UNICEF. This is complemented by an additional UN system joint programme launched as part of the first M-GA funding round and implemented by the ILO, UNICEF and the World Bank.

The Global Accelerator is supporting the three national priorities under the National Medium-Term Development Plan for 2025–29: (a) the digital, “green” and “blue” economies; (b) education, vocational skills, gender equality and the empowerment of youth, women, elderly, and persons with disabilities; and (c) adaptive and integrated social protection systems. The main activities undertaken are detailed below:

BAPPENAS, the UN and the World Bank organized a planning workshop in January 2025 to produce a joint work plan for the two UN system joint programmes related to the Global Accelerator.



Indonesia's road map in focus

Indonesia's road map includes the following priority areas:

- extending integrated social services to older persons, children and persons with disabilities
- improving the national socio-economic registry and management information system
- improving the national apprenticeship programme and the industry-based skills development system.

Population groups impacted by energy transitions, climate change and natural disasters will be prioritized.

An overview of the road map is available [here](https://www.unglobalaccelerator.org/indonesias-global-accelerator-roadmap-towards-jobs-and-social-protection-just-transitions).⁸

⁸ See the Indonesia road map, <https://www.unglobalaccelerator.org/indonesias-global-accelerator-roadmap-towards-jobs-and-social-protection-just-transitions>

- The two joint programmes were officially launched and the **road map endorsed in June 2025**, which helped to position the Global Accelerator as a national priority and laid the groundwork for enhanced coordination and multi-stakeholder collaboration.
- Tripartite constituents participated in the **Asia-Pacific Global Accelerator Policy Forum** held in Cambodia in April 2025, sharing information on Indonesia's road map, innovative financing and skills development strategies.
- The Deputy Minister for National Development Planning **presented Indonesia's Voluntary National Review and the role of the Global Accelerator in supporting the advancement of Sustainable Development Goal 8 (Decent work and economic growth)** at a special event during the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July 2025, in New York.
- A strategy and progress review workshop was hosted in August 2025, during which BAPPENAS focused on four areas: **skills development fund; interoperability of data; access to jobs for persons with disabilities; and the steering committee and technical working groups** were underlined as mechanisms to be established for the Global Accelerator-related joint programmes.
- The joint programmes have supported the development of concrete action plans and cross-sectoral commitments to **advance adaptive social protection in Central Java**, specifically through the drafting of a new provincial regulation, Ministry of Village Decree No. 7/2021. This was the result of a series of capacity-building activities, which have helped reach scale:
 - In collaboration with the Ministry of National Development Planning/BAPPENAS and the Provincial Planning Office of Central Java, supported the training of **over 60 participants from various government agencies and non-governmental organizations with training on adaptive social protection**.
 - In collaboration with the Ministry of Villages and Development of Disadvantaged Regions, supported the training of **210 village leaders** in East and Central Java **to make villages climate- and disaster-resilient**.
- Following the 2025 Sumatra flood disaster, UN joint programme influenced revisions to the Ministry of Social Affairs' Ministerial Decree No. 10/2020 to **accelerate cash assistance (JADUP)** and increase benefit levels, **reinforcing scalability** under the Adaptive Social Protection framework.
- A **tripartite national policy dialogue** was organized in June 2025 on the rationale for **ratifying the Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102)**, along with several technical meetings with the Coordinating Ministry for Community Empowerment and the National Social Security Council.
- A **comparative study on long-term care insurance schemes in Asia** was conducted and its findings presented to BAPPENAS at a bipartite technical meeting in March 2025.
- A **national tripartite consultation meeting on ageing and pension reforms** with 92 participants was jointly organized with BAPPENAS in May 2025.
 - The ILO presented legal and actuarial analyses conducted in line with Convention No. 102 and **recommended establishing a new universal pension scheme to cover all citizens**, including those involved in any forms of employment in the informal economy and people outside the labour market, and **extending the existing contributory-defined benefit scheme to all employees**, including informal employees in the formal sector (since, for example, the employees of micro- and small enterprises and construction workers in formal enterprises are currently excluded from that scheme).
- A **sampling survey on the costs of care for the elderly** was conducted in June 2025 in Yogyakarta the most rapidly ageing province in Indonesia, in collaboration with Gadjah Mada University and the University of Indonesia.
 - A study report to be finalized in early 2026 will present **empirical evidence on the monetary and opportunity costs borne by caring households**.

- The study will **provide baseline data for a series of policy dialogues on the establishment of a long-term insurance scheme.**
- At a Badan Penyelenggara Jaminan Sosial Ketenagakerjaan (BPJS Employment) policy dialogue event in July 2025, attended by high-level tripartite representatives, recommendations were provided on **the extension of old-age benefit coverage to workers in the informal economy and people outside the labour market.**
- The UN joint programme contributed to a chapter in the book entitled *Towards Sustainability: A Decade of Jaminan Pensiun* that was launched by BPJS Employment at the event.
- In June 2025, the joint programme provided **technical inputs to the Regional Representative Council's Committee III on Social Security Law reforms** designed to achieve universal coverage throughout the life cycle, **and to the House of Representatives on the Domestic Workers Bill**, which is aimed at establishing and extending labour and social security rights.
- A series of **tripartite dialogues on the Quality Apprenticeships Recommendation, 2023 (No. 208)**, were organized by BAPPENAS and the Ministry of Manpower.
 - Tripartite recommendations have been drawn up for **revising the existing apprenticeship regulation** (Permenaker No. 6/2020) to pave the way for more inclusive apprenticeship schemes.
 - These recommendations will be piloted in the implementation of the new national stimulus apprenticeship programme—introduced following the 2025 mass demonstrations demanding economic improvements—and the UN joint programme will support its monitoring and evaluation to ensure effectiveness and impact.
- A **technical brief on the creation of a Skills Development Fund (SDF)** was drafted as part of the national strategy on TVET reform, following which the **SDF has been established** which is expected to catalyze long-term investments in vocational training and skilling.
- A **Tourism Sector Skills Council** was formally established in June 2025, institutionalizing private sector engagement in the design of skills development policies and thereby ensuring that these are aligned with industry needs and help to enhance employability.
- Advocacy by the joint programmes has helped anchor Presidential Instruction No. 4/2025 on **Data Tunggal Sosial Ekonomi Nasional (DTSEN)**, mandating the Central Agency of Statistics in Indonesia and line ministries to maintain a **unified socio-economic database for inclusive planning.**
- The Global Accelerator collaborates closely with the M-GA joint programme, particularly in **enhancing services for persons with disabilities.** The Global Accelerator's work focuses on strengthening inclusive and adaptive social protection systems and on advancing the development of an improved, industry-led skills development system. The M-GA provides added value by complementing these system-level efforts with targeted analytical and operational support. This support includes ongoing analysis of the costs associated with caring for family members (especially children) with disabilities (an endeavour led by UNICEF), the assessments of the specific barriers and needs faced by persons with disabilities in (re) entering the labour market (led by the World Bank) and a study on employment quotas for persons with disabilities (led by the ILO). The following activities have been undertaken:
 - The joint programmes have contributed to the drafting of the **National Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities for 2025–29.**
 - A mapping of the social protection system for **interoperability of data** is being conducted to improve targeting, gender equity and disaster response, contributing to a more inclusive and data-driven social protection system.
 - By supporting the development of adjusted national standards for estimating the cost of caring for children with disabilities, Indonesia's first **minimum expenditure benchmark has been developed** for the survival and livelihoods of children with disabilities which provides an evidence base to inform benefit levels for social assistance and social security programmes.

- An assessment of disability benefits in the country was commissioned in March 2025 to **review disability benefits** under the existing pension, employment injury insurance, and social assistance schemes. The study report is due to be finalized in 2026 and will recommend establishing universal disability benefit coverage through a multi-tier approach.
- To facilitate the labour market inclusion of persons with disabilities, **standard operating procedures for inclusive skills training are being developed** and **capacity-building for public employment service officials** within the Ministry of Manpower and regional employment offices across Indonesia is being undertaken.
 - A total of 44 officials from 13 provinces participated in professional disability management training and took an exam in July 2025 with a view to obtaining disability management professional certification. Out of these, **26 officials from the Ministry and Provincial Employment Offices from eight provinces** have successfully become **Certified Disability Management Professional (CDMP)**, which was based on standards and materials issued by Canada’s National Institute of Disability Management and Research (NIDMAR).
 - In South-East Asia, Malaysia’s social security organization (PERKESO) is the sole licensee allowed to award CDMP certification. In line with the Global Accelerator’s commitment to strengthening capacity-building and fostering a supportive ecosystem for the employment of persons with disabilities, six of the highest scoring officials **participated in an on-the-job training and study visit to PERKESO’s rehabilitation centres in Malaysia** in October 2025.
 - The newly certified CDMPs were mobilized to **deliver online peer-to-peer training, reaching around 2,000 PES officers nationwide**. Furthermore, the NIDMAR training materials were **translated into the Indonesian language**, for use by the Ministry of Manpower. These efforts are expanding the consistency and quality of disability-inclusive employment services across provinces.

With the Global Accelerator’s support, government stakeholders are demonstrating a clear shift toward integrated, evidence-based, and market-responsive approaches. Ministries that previously operated in silos now are working with the joint programmes to develop interoperability of data systems like SIDIK (Ministry of Environment), SEPAKAT (Ministry of National Development Planning/Bappenas), and DTSEN (National Socio-Economic Single Data, Statistics Indonesia), and beneficiaries-focused analytics through National Transfer Accounts, to inform policy design and adaptive delivery models linking social protection with health, education, and climate resilience. At the same time, vocational training is transitioning from a supply-driven model to an industry-led skills ecosystem, with private-sector actors such as the tourism industry co-designing standards to ensure alignment with market needs and sustainability objectives. These changes reflect a growing commitment to inclusive, transformative practices aligned with SDG priorities.

4. Next steps and latest updates

- The Tourism Sector Skills Council will receive support for the development of operational guidelines and programmatic documents, and its designated function of guiding skills development in the tourism sector will be piloted.
- An innovative financing strategy for skills development is being developed, tailored to Indonesia’s just transition context, with pilot implementation in climate-vulnerable regions in 2026. The joint programmes will facilitate a series of policy dialogues and the development of a policy note to inform reforms to social registries and the design of just transition strategies, including support for the Affirmative Business Card launched by the Government for vulnerable groups.
- An analytical framework will be designed to assess inclusion/exclusion errors in social assistance programmes.
- A benchmarking study will be conducted on employment quotas for persons with disabilities.
- Standard operating procedures will be drawn up for skills training outreach and delivery in order to increase the responsiveness of such services to the needs of persons with disabilities.

Malawi

1. Vision

To improve access to decent work and economic security, Malawi is using the Global Accelerator to promote inclusive economic growth by accelerating job creation in key sectors, reducing informality in the labour market through the enhancement of skills development and social protection coverage, and improving the adequacy of benefits through a reform of the existing social protection system. It aims to accelerate decent job creation and expand inclusive social protection in agriculture, Malawi's largest employer, and tourism and mining sectors as drivers of transformation, aligned with the country's broader development strategy, Malawi 2063.

2. Governance and coordination

Malawi joined the Global Accelerator initiative in September 2022, with high-level commitment from the President.

In 2024, the National Steering Committee (NSC) and Technical Committee for the Global Accelerator were constituted. The Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs co-chair the NSC, which provides policy direction, while the Technical Committee provides technical guidance for implementation.

Both committees comprise representatives of the Government, the private sector, the social partners, CSOs, the UN system and development partners. The NSC has senior representatives at the Principal Secretary level, while the Technical Committee has representatives at the Director/Deputy Director level. Germany and Ireland are represented as development partners.

Malawi's Global Accelerator road map was endorsed at a national validation meeting in December 2024.

3. Key highlights, activities and outcomes

“We urge all stakeholders to ensure that the Global Accelerator national road map is not only comprehensive but also realistic and actionable, with clear steps for implementation to ensure that the Global Accelerator initiative is brought to life in Malawi.”

– Ms Chikondano Mussa, former Principal Secretary at the Ministry of Labour.

Image 5. Recognition of Prior Learning training in Malawi.



The implementation of the Global Accelerator initiative in Malawi has started with a UN system joint programme funded by the Joint SDG Fund through the High Impact Track and implemented by FAO, the ILO and UN Women. It is also supported by an ILO regional programme on social protection funded by Ireland.

Some of the key results achieved so far are detailed below:

- The Global Accelerator **road map** was **developed and subsequently endorsed** at a national validation meeting in December 2024.
- The **NSC and Technical Committee** for the Global Accelerator were established in 2024 and their mandates approved in May 2025.
- **Over 50 government officials were trained in employment impact assessments**, enhancing their ability to evaluate the job-creation potential of public investment programmes.
- A **labour market information system** is being established, strengthened and monitored:
 - Malawi's **active labour market interventions and skills programmes** are being mapped to support the development of guidelines to promote policy coherence, institutional coordination and capacity-building, including with regard to the labour market inclusion of cross-cutting issues relating to women, youth and persons with disabilities.
 - National capacity to **generate, analyze, and apply labour-market data** for skills planning, employment policy formulation, and monitor job outcomes was strengthened.
- The capacity of the National Statistics Office is being strengthened to **generate and analyze sex-disaggregated data** using the Time Use Survey.
- To **enhance access to finance for women- and youth-led agribusinesses**, the Global Accelerator contributed to the establishment of partnerships with the Standard Bank of Malawi, NBS Bank and the Chinese Government. These partnerships will help to promote financing mixes aimed at increasing access to financial



Malawi's road map in focus

Malawi's road map identifies four key entry points:

- increasing agricultural productivity and commercialization
- industrializing the mining sector
- fostering the tourism industry
- strengthening the quality and adequacy of social protection system.

These entry points are aligned with the Malawi Vision 2063. The road map also prioritizes youth employment, women's economic empowerment, formalization of the informal economy and the inclusion of persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.

Read the road map [here](#).⁹

services for women- and youth-led agribusinesses so that they can grow agricultural enterprises and create jobs in a sustainable manner and on a large scale.

- Around 1,200 entrepreneurs were reached out to through three events, resulting in the creation of **gender-responsive clinics for small and medium-sized enterprises** and **tailored financial products** being offered by NBS Bank.
- Through partnerships with national financial institutions and the development of the National Action Plan for Women's Economic Empowerment, women and youth will be empowered to **participate in dialogue and advocacy efforts** aimed at tackling ongoing issues such as the high youth unemployment.
- To further skills development and job creation along the entire agricultural value chain, **two harmonized curricula have been developed for the horticulture and dairy sectors**.

⁹ See the Malawi road map, <https://www.unglobalaccelerator.org/sites/default/files/2026-05/Malawi%20GA%20National%20Roadmap%20overview.pdf>

- The Ministry of Labour has endorsed the **curriculum for the horticulture sector**, while the Technical, Entrepreneurial and Vocational Education and Training Authority (TVETA) has approved the dairy curriculum.
- Trainers for the horticulture curriculum were trained during August and September 2025 to support the roll out of skills development in that sector. This will **facilitate the creation of both wage employment and self-employment**.
- **A partnership was established with the Employers' Consultative Association of Malawi** and over 20 companies were capacitated to implement apprenticeship programmes in the horticulture and dairy sectors, from which over 200 youth have already benefited from these programmes.
- The UN joint programme is strengthening **Malawi's Agriculture Extension System (AES)** by building national capacity and equipping **Agriculture Extension Officers (AEOs)** with gender-transformative, productivity-focused, and market-oriented skills. UN Women has been applying the **Household Approach**, which is based on engaging all members of a household in unpaid care work, agribusiness activities and decision-making.
 - To date, **108 AEOs have been trained**, and they have scaled up the support to **1,827 farmers**, with the programme set to scale rapidly to reach over 4,000 in 2026 and **1.5 million farmers across 28 districts by 2028**.
 - These trained AEOs provide farmers and cooperatives with **enhanced technical, business, and market-linked services**, integrating support with the Ministry of Agriculture's social protection initiative, the Affordable Input Programme that supports **1,511,302 farmers**. Through this approach, farmers and cooperatives are benefitting from improved productivity, skills development, market access, and formalization.
- An **institution and hub identification exercise** was conducted with the Ministry of Labour in August 2025 to identify stakeholders and partnerships to be involved in the implementation of the Global Accelerator road map, and to promote the scaling up of interventions. The Government, the private sector, employers' and worker's organizations, and women- and youth-led movements have been empowered to **collectively promote skills development, job creation and the extension of social protection coverage**.
- The Ministry of Labour organized a **capacity-building workshop on the recognition of prior learning (RPL)**, during which 70 assessors were trained in the ILO's RPL methodologies.
 - **RPL assessors' manuals were developed to support skills development in five trades:** edible horticulture; electrical installation; refrigeration and air conditioning; mechanics; and woodworking machining.
 - Wood working machining will directly promote agricultural mechanization and employment creation throughout the agricultural value chain.
- The operationalisation of Malawi's new **National Social Protection Policy** was supported to ensure that the population receives universal social protection:
 - **Workers' compensation scheme:** National stakeholders received technical assistance with the development of a road map to design the institutional structure for implementation of the workers' compensation scheme and to advocate policy reforms aimed at improving the social protection system. Technical support is being provided for the legal review of the Workers' Compensation Act of 2000 with a view to reforming the country's existing employer liability and workers' compensation system. Once enacted, the Act will extend legal coverage to **4.27 million workers**, improving working conditions, expanding social protection coverage, and enhancing occupational safety and health standards nationwide.
 - **Pension system:** Technical support is being provided for the legal review and reform of the country's pension system.
- **Guidelines and a training manual on gender mainstreaming in social protection** have been developed to strengthen the capacity

for designing gender-inclusive social protection programmes. The Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare is being supported in revising the National Action Plan for Women's Economic Empowerment.

- **A comprehensive assessment is being conducted to generate recommendations for the integration of social protection in agri-food systems.** Key outputs will include an assessment report, a policy brief and a national launch event to disseminate findings and recommendations.
- **A partnership has been established with the Wamaka Youth for Development Cooperative** to pilot a transformative project aimed at promoting youth employment along the aquaculture value chain. The proposed project seeks to increase fish production for a youth led aquaculture cooperative in Nkhata Bay from 3,600 kg/year to 12,800 kg/year by 2026 through support for the rehabilitation of existing fishponds, capacity-building to promote effective fish production, pond management and entrepreneurship skills.
- The Global Accelerator and the ProAgro YOUTH programme (a joint ILO-IFAD initiative) hosted a **donor round table in May 2025 to highlight the impact of employment creation along the agriculture value chain** and promote opportunities for increased investments in employment creation and social protection in the agricultural sector.
 - The ILO regional programme on social protection funded by Ireland, the ProAgro YOUTH programme and the ILO Global Skills Programme funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation are providing around **US\$350,000 to support implementation of the Global Accelerator road map.**

4. Next steps and latest updates

- The Global Accelerator Team is working with the UN Resident Coordinator on strategic engagement with the new Government.
- Partnerships to promote skills development, employment creation and social protection interventions are being established with national training institutions, the private sector and youth groups.
- Capacity-building will be conducted among the social partners to strengthen their involvement in the implementation of the Global Accelerator road map.
- An integrated financing strategy and a results monitoring framework aligned with the SDGs will be developed.
- An ESPER review will be undertaken to develop a baseline and conceptualize policy recommendations and financing options for job creation and social protection.
- Malawi has been selected to receive funding under the Pathfinder Track of the second M-GA funding round and began implementing the corresponding activities in the final quarter of 2025. The M-GA funding is being used to design a comprehensive, gender-responsive programme on skills development and the creation of decent jobs for vulnerable young people, and to promote linkages between employment and social protection.
- In 2026, Malawi will advance policy design of a national employment injury insurance scheme, embedded in national law and aligned with international social security standards.

Namibia

1. Vision

Namibia seeks to rapidly develop integrated policy and programmatic approaches that create jobs and extend social protection coverage, with an initial focus on the agricultural and biomass sectors.

Implementation of the Global Accelerator initiative in Namibia will, in particular, involve addressing the challenges of inequality, poverty and rising unemployment, and following a human-rights based approach to target vulnerable and marginalized groups.

2. Governance and coordination

The President confirmed Namibia's high-level commitment to the Global Accelerator in April 2023. To ensure strong leadership and coherence, Namibia has established clear governance structures for the Global Accelerator.

At the very top, the Troika+ High-Level Committee provides cabinet-level oversight. It is co-chaired by the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Justice and Labour Relations and the Director General of the National Planning Commission and is supported by key line ministers and the Chief Executive Officer of the Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board. Other members of the Troika+ High-Level Committee are the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform; the Minister of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare; the Minister of Environment and Tourism; the Minister of Health and Social Services; the Minister of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sport, Arts and Culture; the Minister of International Relations and Trade; the Minister of Mines, Energy and Industry; and the Minister of Urban and Rural Development. Representatives of the social partners, the Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board, the National Youth Council, the National Youth Service, the Namibia Industrial Development Agency and the Social Security Commission are also part of the Committee.

The Troika+ High-Level Committee is supported by the Steering Committee for the Global Accelerator, which is co-chaired by the Executive Director of the Ministry of Justice and Labour

Relations and the UN Resident Coordinator. The Steering Committee serves as the main policy forum, bringing together senior officials, UN agencies, employers, workers and development partners.

The Namibia National Global Accelerator Team (NNGAT), co-chaired by the Ministry of Justice and Labour Relations and the ILO, is driving the implementation of the Global Accelerator initiative through technical experts deployed by UN agencies; representatives of employers' organizations, trade unions and the private sector; development partners; civil society; and other stakeholders.

3. Key highlights, activities and outcomes

“The Global Accelerator is an opportunity to think out of the box and declare a war on silos... we have taken the word ‘Accelerator’ and made it a part of our vocabulary... the TROIKA+ structure has taken employment creation and social protection and put it at the centre of economic and social development, which is a real paradigm shift... the recognition that collectively we can improve the lives of people is an opportunity we should seize.”

- Ms Vicki Erenstein ya Toivo, Special Advisor to the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation.

The implementation of the Global Accelerator initiative in Namibia has been supported by a UN system joint programme funded by the Joint SDG Fund through the High Impact Track and implemented by FAO, the ILO and the UNDP. The following activities have been undertaken:

- A **capacity-building workshop on social security standards** was held in order to strengthen the capacities of tripartite stakeholders — including government ministries,

Image 6. Namibia's Global Accelerator team participating in a session on employment impact assessment.



the Social Security Commission, financial regulatory authorities, and workers' and employers' organizations – to align the country's social protection system with international social security standards.

- A **review of national legislation in relation to the international social security standards** enshrined in the Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102), was conducted. A Technical Working Group – made up of representatives of the Social Security Commission, the Ministry of Justice and Labour Relations, the Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare, and the social partners – has been established to spearhead the reform of Namibia's social protection and pension systems.
- The Government and the UN conducted a **diagnostic study of the informal economy**, to provide the first integrated evidence base on informality, informing a policy framework to facilitate transition from informal to formal economy, advancing regulatory coherence across labour, enterprise development, and social protection systems. The exercise drew on complementary technical expertise and funding from the Global Accelerator-related UN system joint programme, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat),

the United Nations Innovation Technology Accelerator for Cities (UNITAC Hamburg), the Bank of Namibia and the Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy.¹⁰

- A **strategy to facilitate the transition of workers and enterprises** from the informal to the formal economy has been developed.
- The **design of the third National Employment Policy** was supported with analytical inputs and through facilitation of the consultative process. Final regional consultations are due to take place in early 2026 before the policy document is submitted to the Government for review and adoption.
- **Employment impact assessments (EmpIA)** are being conducted to assess the direct and indirect creation of formal and informal jobs as the result of a major project related to green hydrogen production, and in the biomass and agricultural sectors. A training event on EmpIA and a high-level forum for the institutionalization of such assessments was conducted in October 2025 for key government departments and the social partners. It helped identify the institutional and operational arrangements needed to anchor EmpIA within Namibia's policymaking processes.

¹⁰ The Global Accelerator contributed 425,000 Namibian dollars (about 17 per cent of the cost), while the Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy and the Bank of Namibia each contributed 1 million Namibian dollars.

- Data on ALMPs aimed at employment promotion and the extension of social protection with a focus on disadvantaged and vulnerable groups was collected and analyzed to inform the **design of ALMPs** and the **production of labour market information statistics**.
- **Skills gaps and opportunities in the energy sector (and the green hydrogen subsector) were assessed** using the ILO's Skills for Trade and Economic Diversification (STED) methodology, which informed the drafting, validation and adoption of an energy sector skills strategy.
- A **diagnostic assessment of inequalities** in the world of work, including social protection dimensions, has been completed and will inform the development of a strategy to reduce such inequalities.
- **Accredited training in biomass harvesting and processing** was delivered by the National Youth Service to 295 young people. Upon completion of the training programme, these young people were linked to the labour market through facilitated off-take agreements, thereby generating employment opportunities.
- An **environmental and social management plan** was developed to ensure that the social and environmental risks associated with biomass harvesting and processing are identified and adequately mitigated. This plan also mainstreams accountability to project participants and affected communities throughout the implementation of the Global Accelerator-related UN system joint programme.
- **Micro-level assessments to evaluate the performance of private sector** intermediaries in distributing funds to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and preparations for the roll-out of Empretec training¹¹ were completed.
- The UN joint programme supported the Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy, the Ministry of Justice and Labour Relations and the Bank of Namibia to undertake a **comprehensive diagnostic study of the informal economy and a draft policy framework and road map** to facilitate the transition from the informal to the formal economy. This launch marks a major step toward strengthening national policy responses for one of the country's largest economic segments and provides an evidence base for strengthening policies and institutions supporting informal workers and enterprises.
- The Global Accelerator in Namibia is anchored in strategic partnerships and collaboration. In particular, the UN-World Bank collaboration, through the M-GA, has ensured high-quality support for the Government in advancing job creation, social protection and just transitions. This partnership provides **technical depth, financing leverage and a unified platform for the delivery of transformational change**. During the reporting period, the Global Accelerator also leveraged national partnerships with the National Youth Service and the Bank of Namibia, strengthening policy coherence. Engagement with private sector actors — Ombú Capital, Bellatrix and Bellatrix SME Finance — helped to expand the support provided to enterprises. Collaboration with labour unions (the National Union of Namibian Workers, the Trade Union Congress of Namibia and the Namibia National Labour Organization) and employer bodies (the Namibian Employers' Federation and the Namibian Employers' Association) anchored implementation of the Global Accelerator initiative to social dialogue, ensuring balanced contributions to the joint programme's objectives.

4. Next steps and latest updates

- By June 2026, the design of road map and the employment impact assessment of the green hydrogen project will have been completed, and an energy sector skills strategy based on the STED methodology will have been launched.
- In early 2026, the Biomass Funding Window will be launched under the SDG Impact Finance Initiative Fund and will disburse grant funding totalling **US\$200,000** to MSMEs and individuals with bankable biomass-related solutions that have the potential to be scaled up and generate employment.
- Based on the model developed in 2025, the work on training and supporting youth-owned

¹¹ Empretec is a flagship capacity-building programme of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) for the promotion of entrepreneurship, MSMEs and start-ups.

enterprises in the biomass and agricultural sectors is expected to pick up momentum in early 2026.

- Namibia was selected to receive funding under the Pathfinder Track of the second M-GA funding round and started implementing the corresponding activities in the final quarter of 2025.
- In 2026, Namibia will advance implementation of a national pension scheme, strengthening its design, financing, and legislative alignment with international social security standards including Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102). In parallel, the country will develop unemployment protection and reinforce institutional capacity and social dialogue to build a comprehensive, inclusive and sustainable social protection system.

Paraguay

1. Vision

The Global Accelerator is contributing to policy developments that will support employment creation, formalization and the sustainability of social protection in the wake of climate change impacts, digitalization and demographic change in Paraguay.

The country's Global Accelerator road map focuses on identifying and reducing the barriers that women and young people face in accessing the labour market; addressing the employment risks arising from climate change and digitalization; enhancing tools to improve ALMPs that facilitate just transitions, specifically for female workers; and supporting and facilitating reforms of the pension system.

The Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security leads the road map's implementation, coordinating with the Ministry of Economy and Finance, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other relevant institutions, including workers' organizations (CNT, CGT, CPT, CUT and CUT-A)¹² and employers' organizations (ARP, FEPRINCO and UIP)¹³ to ensure that the implementation process and all associated activities are inclusive and tripartite. In addition, as part of the implementation of the M-GA programme, tripartite Social Security Social Dialogue Roundtables have been set up and meet periodically and the Accelerator is supporting the Tripartite Commission for Equal Opportunities, which guides the development of employment and social protection policies for specific groups of workers.

2. Governance and coordination

Paraguay joined the Global Accelerator initiative in February 2024 through a high-level commitment made by the Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Security. The road map was endorsed in July 2024.

12 CNT = National Central Workers' Organization (Central Nacional de Trabajadores); CGT = General Central Organization of Workers (Central General de Trabajadores); CPT = Paraguayan Confederation of Workers (Confederación Paraguaya de Trabajadores); CUT = Unitary Central Organization of Workers (Central Unitaria de Trabajadores); CUT-A = Authentic Unitary Central Organization of Workers (Central Unitaria de Trabajadores Auténtica).

13 ARP = Rural Association of Paraguay (Asociación Rural del Paraguay); FEPRINCO = Federation of Production, Industry and Commerce (Federación de la Producción, la Industria y el Comercio); UIP = Paraguayan Industrial Union (Unión Industrial Paraguaya).

3. Key highlights, activities and outcomes

“The main achievements we have been promoting (with the Global Accelerator) are fundamentally related to formalization...we have a high rate of informal employment and in this regard, the programme we are developing...has opened the doors to much stronger social dialogue and civil society participation in public policy. It has also focussed on social protection and its importance in creating more sustained and inclusive economic growth, which is the goal of various social programmes... Now there is a much more comprehensive view of policies and also elements from other sectors where we do not directly intervene, but which ultimately have an impact on integrated public policy”

– Ms Mónica Recalde, Minister of Labour and Employment.

The implementation of the Global Accelerator initiative in Paraguay has been supported by a UN system joint programme funded by the Joint SDG Fund through the Seed Funding Track and implemented by the ILO, the UNDP and UNICEF. This is complemented by a UN–World Bank joint programme launched as part of the first M-GA funding round and implemented by the ILO, the UNDP and the World Bank, with additional financial support provided through an ILO extrabudgetary project funded by the Republic of Korea. The main activities carried out under the joint programmes are detailed below:

- The Global Accelerator **road map** was **drafted and subsequently endorsed in July 2024**.
- **Implementation and monitoring of the Integrated Strategy for the Formalization of Employment 2025–28** have been supported

through workshops, research and the development of relevant indicators, with special attention paid to women, youth and the impact of technological and environmental change.

- The joint programmes have made significant progress on just transitions:
 - **With the Government:** Measuring green jobs to identify skills gaps and employment opportunities in the green transition.
 - **With employers:** Measuring the potential for green jobs and environmental aspects within a future industrial policy aimed at the development of specific supply chains with high job creation potential.
 - **With workers:** Facilitating the development of a road map on just transitions together with trade unions.
 - **Good practices from the region** have been collected to produce a technical report on just transitions that will support capacity-building.
- **The Tripartite Commission for Equal Opportunities has received support for the development of its Action Plan**, in which social protection coverage for domestic workers and violence and harassment at work have been identified as the key areas that need to be addressed.



Paraguay's road map in focus

Paraguay's road map has four priority areas:

- strengthening the institutional coordination of employment, formalization, social protection and care programmes
- industrial policy alignment (especially for the transition to a digital and sustainable economy)
- development of MSMEs, including through local development programmes
- domestic resource mobilization.

An overview of the road map is available [here](#).¹⁴

¹⁴ See the Paraguay road map, <https://www.unglobalaccelerator.org/paraguays-roadmap-global-accelerator-jobs-and-social-protection-just-transitions>

Image 7. Meeting of Paraguay’s Tripartite Commission for Equal Opportunities.



- In collaboration with the social partners, social security coverage for youth, sustainability and compliance were identified as the **key areas to be discussed at the Global Accelerator-supported tripartite Social Security** round-tables.
- **The labour market and social protection policies have been strengthened** to promote decent jobs, social protection for all and just transitions in Paraguay.
- An **employment expenditure review** and a thorough mapping of ALMPs are being undertaken to determine the extent of public spending on job creation and improved labour market outcomes, and to identify opportunities for new activation programmes.
- The Global Accelerator’s conceptual framework has **supported a more integrated view of employment, social protection and just transitions**, which is reflected in the “Emplea PY Joven” programme – an innovative subsidy scheme to foster the labour market integration of youth through formal jobs at MSMEs – and also in the adoption of the Integrated Strategy for the Formalization of Employment for 2025–28. The Global Accelerator has helped to position the social partners in the policy dialogue on enhancing employment creation and social protection in view of environmental and digital transformations, with special attention paid to specific groups of workers.
- The M-GA is strengthening the Global Accelerator initiative by supporting Paraguay’s efforts to **modernize its social protection and labour market systems in response to the demographic transition, technological change and climate-related risks**. The UN–World Bank joint programme is working on improving the labour market integration of youth and women, in particular by designing a lifelong learning strategy based on identified skills gaps and the impacts of technological and climate change.
 - By leveraging the distinct strengths of the World Bank and UN agencies, the M-GA **promotes a sustainable reform agenda**. The World Bank contributes expertise on ageing, pensions and technological change; the ILO fosters tripartite social dialogue and ensures alignment with international labour standards and decent work principles; and the UNDP brings a governance and human development perspective grounded in field experience.
 - Building on existing World Bank, ILO and UNDP analytical and technical assistance, particularly on pensions, income protection for older persons, skills development and formalization, **the M-GA is strengthening Paraguay’s institutional capacity for evidence-based policy design**.

Collaboration between the World Bank and several UN agencies has ensured that the Government receives integrated technical assistance. Shared policy recommendations based on jointly gathered evidence allow for a unified

stance on the part of international organizations when communicating the work that they are carrying out, which facilitates the exchange of information with local actors and promotes policy coherence. In Paraguay, this has helped to strengthen dialogue between, for example, the Ministry of Economy and Finance, the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Children and Adolescents, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, and the social partners.

4. Next steps and latest updates

- Policy coherence between employment and social protection programmes will continue to be strengthened by supporting the development of a monitoring and evaluation strategy

for the “Emplea PY Joven” programme that integrates the Global Accelerator’s mandate and by securing further domestic resources. Resource mobilization efforts involving other donors are under way to expand integrated policy action to the areas of employment formalization and the care economy, and to gather evidence for the mobilization of internal resources so as to ensure the continuity and sustainability of interventions that have proved their effectiveness.

- Research is advancing on the employment impacts of climate change and artificial intelligence, the obstacles faced by women and youth face in securing formal employment, and the sustainability of contributory pension funds. These research activities will be finalized in the first half of 2026.

Uzbekistan

1. Vision

Uzbekistan is focusing on promoting formalization by establishing an enabling business environment, fostering entrepreneurship, strengthening labour protection and building a comprehensive social protection system to ensure the resilience of jobs and livelihoods against risks. Under the Global Accelerator initiative it is also seeking to build a comprehensive and inclusive social protection system, extending coverage to over 5.8 million people.

2. Governance and coordination

The Prime Minister confirmed Uzbekistan’s high-level commitment to the Global Accelerator in August 2023. A National Steering Committee was established in April 2025, with representatives of the Ministry of Economy and Finance and the National Agency for Social Protection (NASP) serving as the co-chairs, and with the participation of the Ministry of Employment and Poverty Reduction, the Federation of Trade Unions of Uzbekistan, the Confederation of Employers of Uzbekistan, the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office and development partners. The Steering Committee for the Global Accelerator-related UN

system joint programme is co-chaired by NASP and the Ministry of Employment and Poverty Reduction. The Global Accelerator road map was adopted in September 2024.

3. Key highlights, activities and outcomes

“Uzbekistan is one of the 19 countries involved in the implementation of the UN Secretary-General’s global initiative on jobs and social protection to achieve just transitions. Our objective is to develop innovative solutions to address development challenges in the context of multiple global crises. As a pathfinder country, Uzbekistan will create models that can be replicated in other countries.”

– Mr Khurshid Zafari, Director of the Institute for Development of Social Protection under the National Agency for Social Protection

Image 8. Tripartite workshop on social insurance legislation in Uzbekistan.



The implementation of the Global Accelerator initiative in Uzbekistan has been supported by a UN system joint programme funded by the Joint SDG Fund through the High Impact Track and implemented by the ILO, the UNDP, UNICEF and UN-Women. This is complemented by a UN-World Bank joint programme launched as part of the first M-GA funding round and implemented by the ILO, UNICEF and the World Bank. The main activities carried out under the joint programmes are detailed below:

- The Global Accelerator **road map was developed and adopted in 2024**. The Government endorsed the UN joint system programme and the UN-World Bank joint programme in December 2024 and they were officially launched in April 2025, with activities focusing on formalization and the expansion of social insurance.
 - The Federation of Trade Unions of Uzbekistan joined the National Steering Committee and the Technical Working Group and participated in national consultations on the road map. Its proposals on occupational safety and health, social protection and formalization were incorporated into the final version.
- In partnership with NASP, a **study on care cooperatives** was launched to develop a relevant road map, including the piloting of such cooperatives.



Uzbekistan's road map in focus

Uzbekistan's road map has four priority areas:

- increasing the share of the formal economy through the development of employment and social protection programmes
- developing an inclusive economy and increasing the coverage and quality of social protection
- creating "green" jobs and ensuring social protection of the population against the adverse effects of climate change
- preparing the labour market and the social protection system for the process of digitalization.

The full text of the road map is available [here](#).¹⁵

- A **multi-stakeholder round table was convened** with the Ministry of Employment and Poverty Reduction, the Ministry of Economy and Finance, the Tax Committee, the Centre for Economic Research and Reforms, the Centre for Analysis of the Shadow Economy under the

¹⁵ See the Uzbekistan road map, <https://socialpolicylab.uz/en/research/others/48>

Prosecutor General's Office, and the Business Ombudsman, resulting in the **establishment of a working group on policies to address informality.**

- Consultations were launched on **informality in the construction sector.** Digital tools will be used to monitor compliance with occupational safety and health regulations and to extend insurance coverage to informal and self-employed workers.
 - Advocacy efforts regarding the informality and social protection deficits faced by construction workers prompted the national stakeholders to **commit to reforming existing legislation and practices.** A national round table will be held in February 2026, bringing together officials from the Ministry of Employment and Poverty Reduction and the Pension Fund and representatives of the IFI's providing financial support to the infrastructure and construction sectors in Uzbekistan, the construction sector and workers' and employers' representatives.
- An **entrepreneurship programme reaching around 10,000 women** was implemented together with the Ministry of Employment and Poverty Reduction (MEPR). User-friendly tools were developed, including updated application forms, scoring guides and feedback surveys.
 - MEPR adopted **standardized participant selection procedures** for large-scale entrepreneurship programmes, while a 40-hour entrepreneurship curriculum demonstrated measurable competency gains and it is now a replicable model.
- A **direct grant agreement** has been signed with the Fintech Association of Uzbekistan to train women in e-commerce, digital marketing, taxation, legal registration, fundraising and online sales.
- Market scanning was conducted to identify **high-impact companies for the promotion of women's empowerment.** Three companies have joined since the project's launch, including ACWA Power, a major player in the energy sector.
- A **national awareness campaign on women's empowerment** is being designed together with the Business Ombudsman.
- The Social Policy Laboratory was strengthened by **assessing capacity gaps and supporting development of technical skills** to design and conduct nationwide household surveys. This enhances national capacity for regular, policy-relevant evidence generation on barriers to social protection access.
- The **Social Insurance Law** was approved by the President on 9 December 2025, with implementation of the maternity benefits due to start in January 2026 and cash sickness benefits in July 2026. The M-GA is strengthening the Global Accelerator initiative by **supporting the implementation of Uzbekistan's Social Insurance Law** as a cross-cutting task, with a focus on expanding the coverage of short-term benefits, starting with maternity benefits.
 - This builds on the existing **collaborative work of the World Bank, UNICEF and the ILO on assessment of Uzbekistan's social protection system**, which was instrumental in the creation of NASP and the Social Protection Strategy. The UN-World Bank collaboration adds value by combining legislative and regulatory expertise and operational guidance with system-level policy analysis, financing and support for institutional reform, enabling the translation of legislative amendments into inclusive and fiscally sustainable implementation.
 - The **World Bank has been fully involved in the development and promotion of Uzbekistan's Global Accelerator road map**, and the UN-World Bank collaboration builds on a solid foundation of joint technical work on social protection that goes back several years. This long-standing partnership has strengthened policy coherence, institutional trust and readiness for reform, allowing M-GA resources to be deployed strategically and with immediate impact.
 - The establishment of maternity and cash sickness insurance, alongside the creation of a dedicated Social Insurance Fund, **helps shift the system from employer-liability arrangements to pooled, rules-based risk sharing.**

- **A road map is being drawn up to align the Social Insurance Act with the Maternity Protection Convention, 2000 (No. 183)**, ensuring health protection, maternity leave and benefits, and non-discriminatory treatment for employed women.
 - NASP conducted a tripartite workshop on maternity benefits schemes, based on an actuarial assessment undertaken by the ILO, UNICEF and the World Bank. The assessment helped in shaping recommendations related to the new Social Insurance Act.
 - The UN joint programme-supported actuarial modelling has **directly informed benefit design, coverage scenarios, and financial sustainability**, embedding evidence-based planning within national decision-making processes and reducing long-term fiscal uncertainty.
- The joint programmes are working on **long-term solutions**:
 - With regard to actuarial capacity-building, a working group has been set up involving the World Bank, the ILO, international experts, national stakeholders in the field of social protection (NASP and the Pension Fund) and the National University of Uzbekistan **to develop an academic course on actuarial modelling**, which has been identified as a gap in the education system at present. The purpose is to equip students with actuarial skills when entering the labour market.
 - Public employment services and the Ministry of Employment and Poverty Reduction have **adopted standardized tools for entrepreneurship training**, enabling transparent and scalable support to women and informal workers.
 - The Business Development Bank has **integrated non-financial advisory services into its operations**, improving the productivity and formalization outcomes of financed enterprises.
 - The Global Accelerator initiative has helped **reshape coordination and accountability ecosystems**. Tripartite dialogue on benefit reforms now relies on shared actuarial evidence, enhancing trust between government, employers, and workers. Collaboration between

financial institutions, mono-centres, local authorities, and research bodies has institutionalized cross-sector linkages that extend beyond project implementation.

Overall, the initiative has demonstrated that aligning legislative reform, actuarial sustainability, institutional capacity, and inclusive labour market interventions can generate durable systems change. Its catalytic value lies in institutionalization: reforms are legally anchored, financially modelled, nationally owned, and embedded in routine governance processes, ensuring impact beyond the programme lifecycle.

4. Next steps and latest updates

- An in-depth analysis on barriers preventing informal workers from accessing contributory social protection will be undertaken together with national partners.
- A national household survey on barriers to social protection will be undertaken by UNICEF together with the Social Policy Laboratory (a subordinate entity of NASP). The National Statistics Committee has committed to supporting sampling and quality assurance for this survey.
- Based on advocacy work aimed at improving the working conditions of construction workers and formalizing their employment, a national round table is planned to take place in February 2026, bringing together donors and IFIs to encourage stronger oversight of labour rights in infrastructure projects.
- In addition to conducting an actuarial valuation and sharing actuarial recommendations to ensure the sustainability of the State Social Insurance Fund, a longer-term approach is also being considered to increase national actuarial capacity through the creation of the first actuarial course in Uzbekistan together with Mirzo Ukugbek National University of Uzbekistan, NASP, the Pension Fund and international actuaries. The course will be anchored within an existing university diploma, and a pilot version will be conducted from September 2026. University students and teaching staff and officials from NASP and the Pension Fund are expected to benefit from this course.

Early-stage pathfinder countries

Cabo Verde

1. Vision

Cabo Verde is prioritizing the eradication of extreme poverty, the economic empowerment of vulnerable groups (in particular, women and youth) and economic formalization, along with the integration of social protection and employment policies with a focus on local-level implementation. The broader goal is to support: the country's commitment to eradicating extreme poverty by 2026 through carefully targeted training and employment plans; improvement of the Single Social Registry; the further extension of social protection; the formalization of microenterprises; and the design and implementation of policies to enhance the productive capacity of individuals with lower education levels in rural areas that are highly dependent on agriculture.

2. Governance and coordination

Cabo Verde joined the Global Accelerator in January 2024. The Deputy Prime Minister/Minister of Finance and the Minister of Labour co-lead the implementation of the initiative in the country. Established in April 2024, the National Steering Committee for the Global Accelerator is chaired by the National Director for Planning at the Ministry of Finance and comprises representatives of the Ministry of Family, Inclusion and Social Development, the National Centre of Social Protection, the National Directorate of Employment and Vocational Training, the Institute of Employment and Vocational Training, the National Institute of Statistics, employers' and workers' organizations, academia, CSOs, UN agencies and donor organizations.

3. Key highlights, activities and outcomes

“We have created a national team with all the stakeholders, including the government, employers and workers organizations, UN system, IFIs, and civil society... There is good coordination between the partners to improve Cabo Verde's standing on social protection and employment creation and also on increasing investment into the economy... We come together with different perspectives but the same objective... and the Global Accelerator can help us achieve these goals and accelerate implementation of the projects, which gives the benefits to the families.”

– Mr Gilson Pina, National Director for Planning, Ministry of Finance.

The implementation of the Global Accelerator initiative in Cabo Verde has been supported by a UN system joint programme funded by the Joint SDG Fund through the Seed Funding Track and implemented by the ILO and the UNDP. This is complemented by a UN–World Bank joint programme launched as part of the first M-GA funding round and implemented by the ILO, the UNDP and the World Bank. The main activities carried out under the joint programmes are detailed below:

- Social protection and poverty eradication have been successfully **positioned as strategic priorities at the level of the Deputy Vice Prime Minister**. Several key initiatives on social protection have been analysed to inform future

Image 9. Workshop on validation of Cabo Verde’s Global Accelerator road map.



policy developments and guide the road map’s implementation.

- **Diagnostic work has been undertaken to finalize the priorities in the road map**, which are aligned with the various national strategies on the eradication of extreme poverty, decent work and sustainable development.
- **Two surveys have been conducted** – one on assessing social inclusion income¹⁶ and the other on evaluating the impact of the social pension on poverty reduction – in order to help extend social protection coverage.

A National Steering Committee for the Global Accelerator has been established, which has enhanced the overall coherence of public policies and international cooperation on social protection and employment.

- Convened by the National Directorate for Planning under the Ministry of Finance, the **first National Stakeholder Workshop** in September 2025 brought together national



Cabo Verde’s road map in focus

Cabo Verde’s road map has four strategic entry points:

- promoting decent employment and strengthening human capital
- accelerating formalization and inclusive entrepreneurship
- reinforcing productive social protection systems that support livelihoods and resilience
- expanding inclusive social protection and care services, with particular attention to vulnerable groups
- fostering the long-term inclusion of young people, especially those in NEET situations.

and international partners. Representatives of various national institutions, development

¹⁶ Social Inclusion Income is a public policy instrument, a government cash transfer programme, that has been implemented since 2017.

partners (the World Bank, the EU and the Embassies of Luxembourg, Portugal and Spain) and UN agencies (FAO, the ILO, the UNDP, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the World Health Organization and the UN Resident Coordinator's Office) are working together on the first draft of the national road map, which is expected to be validated by April 2026.

- UN-World Bank collaboration launched under the M-GA is strengthening the Global Accelerator initiative by building on the ongoing World Bank and UN efforts to **better integrate existing social protection schemes with economic inclusion opportunities, supporting Cabo Verde's goal of eradicating extreme poverty by 2026**. Female-headed households, youth and children are the target groups of the joint programmes when it comes to the eradication of extreme poverty.
 - A training package for youth NEET, especially those in extreme poverty, was organized on **Financial Education and Project Management**. This enabled youth to enhance competencies by providing practical tools and techniques for the development of sustainable and high-impact projects, as well as for improved financial management and project sustainability. Capacity building for 101 young people representing youth associations were reinforced, resulting in 30 community inclusion projects developed and implemented, which created around 45 direct jobs for youth. This capacity-building initiative has reached over 300 indirect beneficiaries.
 - In partnership with BIC - Business Incubator Center, the 'Impactar' programme was launched through an interactive bootcamp approach, which equipped youth (particularly vulnerable groups such as women and persons with disabilities) with **entrepreneurial skills to foster innovation and self-employment**: 100 youth benefited, 30 youth-led projects were implemented, contributing to reducing youth unemployment.
- The M-GA joint programme also supported the **implementation of the government social protection program**, which allowed the country to establish an updated Single Social Registry (CSU), contributing to the implementation and allocation of social programmes to the poor and most vulnerable population, promoting their access to an integrated social protection. Over **2,700 households** were added and a total of **31,475 record updates** were carried out, contributing to a two-percentage point decline in extreme poverty.
- The Government has also recognized the value of the collaborative work performed by the World Bank, the UNDP and the ILO in structuring and strengthening competencies related to social protection. **The three organizations are also directly supporting the Government, as development partners, in implementing the strategy for the eradication of extreme poverty and ensure a more gender-responsive and territorially targeted approach.**

4. Next steps and latest updates

- Several workshops were organized between September and December 2025 to further develop the road map, which will be politically validated and launched in April 2026.
- A training initiative on social programme management and public policy management will be launched to familiarize the Government with issues related to the Single Social Registry and the Directorate-General for Social Inclusion at the Ministry of Family, Inclusion and Social Development.
- Activities will be initiated under the M-GA project with a view to strengthening the productive capacities of vulnerable households, enhancing the employability of young people and women, and supporting the formalization of microenterprises.

Colombia

1. Vision

Under the Global Accelerator initiative, Colombia seeks to generate decent employment and expand social protection by addressing structural challenges and promoting labour inclusion, territorial equity and the care economy, in a scenario of just transitions. This involves reducing urban-rural disparities to enable people in all regions of the country to have access to the same conditions for development and well-being.

To that end, Colombia is employing a multisectoral governance structure and drawing on sustainable financing and digitalization, with short-, medium- and long-term interventions that are aligned with the SDGs.

2. Governance and coordination

The National Planning Department, in consultation with the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit, confirmed Colombia's official commitment to the Global Accelerator in March 2024. The National Planning Department serves as the single

institutional channel for the coordination of regular consultations between government agencies, the social partners, development partners and UN agencies by regularly sharing progress updates.

3. Key highlights, activities and outcomes

“It is essential for Colombia’s public policy to have these tools and to share information on the needs of our labour market and exchange global experience...In addition, it is necessary for Colombia to rethink its social protection architecture... which includes care as one of its components.”

– Mr Horacio Coral Díaz, Director of Social Development, National Planning Department.

Image 10. Briefing for regional authorities on the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions National Road map.



The implementation of the Global Accelerator initiative in Colombia has started with a UN system joint programme funded by the Joint SDG Fund through the Seed Funding Track and implemented by the ILO and the WFP. This is complemented by a UN–World Bank joint programme launched as part of the first M-GA funding round and implemented by UNICEF, the WFP and the World Bank. The main activities carried out under the joint programmes are detailed below:

- The ILO and the WFP are drawing up **the national road map, “Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions National Roadmap: Colombia”**. A comprehensive review of key policies, actors and institutions related to employment and social protection has been undertaken to identify structural gaps, institutional challenges and opportunities to promote inclusive well-being and decent employment.
 - The preparation of the aforementioned road map is embedded in the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for 2025–26 and aligned with its social protection priority area, where activities are led by the ILO and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).
- **Five main challenges have been identified:** fragmentation and low coverage of the social protection system; informality and how to promote skills development and lifelong learning; low productivity; regional inequalities; and weak governance.
 - The road map is built around five “accelerators” that shift the focus from institutional design to coordinated action in the country’s regions. Instead of replacing existing policies, they activate and align them to advance pathways for productive inclusion and social protection. Together, the “accelerators” mobilize key capacities and support the gradual development of an adaptive national system.
 - The five accelerators are: (a) productive integration of the popular economy;¹⁷



Colombia’s road map in focus

Colombia’s road map has five “accelerators”:

- productive integration of the popular economy
- energy and digital transitions as enablers of decent work and quality employment
- integrated system for poverty and social protection monitoring
- central and regional government co-investment based on local governance
- care as a productive activity that contributes to decent employment and social equity.

Read an overview of the road map [here](#).¹⁸

(b) energy and digital transitions as enablers of decent work and quality employment; (c) integrated system for poverty and social protection monitoring; (d) central and regional government co-investment based on local governance; and (e) care as a productive activity that contributes to decent employment and social equity.

- The M-GA project is supporting the **strengthening of the Universal Income Registry** so that entitlements to social programmes are updated more frequently and access is provided to social protection and employment programmes that best respond to the needs of beneficiaries.
- Marking the World Day for Social Justice, **a communication campaign was launched in February 2025** to increase public awareness of the Global Accelerator’s objectives and the progress made. A dedicated microsite has been

17 "Popular economy" (economía popular) is a specific term used in Colombia's current National Development Plan, defined as forms of economic organization based on individual, family, or associative work, oriented toward subsistence and well-being (buen vivir), prioritizing people and the environment over individual profit.

18 <https://www.unglobalaccelerator.org/sites/default/files/2026-05/Resumen%20Ejecutivo%20GA.pdf>

set up,¹⁹ and two press releases and 25 social media posts were published there during the reporting period.

- The UN system joint programme funded through the Seed Funding Track concluded on 30 September 2025, whereas the UN–World Bank joint project is still ongoing (until September 2026). **The content of the Global Accelerator road map has been validated by the National Planning Department, workers’ unions and the ANDI.** The final version of the road map was completed and submitted to the high-level committee by December 2025.
- The M-GA is strengthening the Global Accelerator initiative by supporting Colombia’s priority goal of **fully implementing the Universal Income Registry**, which will underpin a more inclusive, rights-based and shock-responsive social protection and jobs system, and one that prioritizes children and adolescents and addresses gender-related vulnerabilities.
 - Building on long-standing World Bank and UN efforts related to social registries, access to services and local delivery models, **the M-GA is helping to build institutional capacity for the use of data and evidence in support of policy design and implementation, in particular so as to reduce barriers to access and exclusion errors.**
 - The UN–World Bank joint programme is also facilitating the piloting of integrated one-stop-shop delivery models in highly deprived municipalities. A Journey Map methodology was employed that captured real citizen trajectories in prioritized territories, identifying exclusion errors,

administrative bottlenecks, and gaps in access affecting vulnerable groups.

- The joint programme aims to **identify barriers hindering access to social protection benefits and exclusion errors affecting the most deprived population groups.** This directly complements the national road map that is being developed by Colombia as part of the Global Accelerator initiative.

4. Next steps and latest updates

- Bilateral meetings and consultations are under way with the Government, workers’ and employers’ organizations, and other national stakeholders to finalize the Global Accelerator road map. A launch event for the validated roadmap is expected to take place in April 2026.
- A broader dissemination event for the road map will take place in 2026 featuring tripartite stakeholders.
- Advocacy work is being carried out among the candidates for the 2026 presidential election to support integration of the Global Accelerator road map into future national development plans. The ILO and the IOM will lead the results monitoring and resource mobilization exercise.
- Colombia will hold parliamentary and presidential elections in 2026, which means that the financing and implementation strategies for the Global Accelerator road map will have to be agreed upon with the new Government that is eventually formed.
- Resource mobilization efforts are under way to advance the short-term actions outlined in the Global Accelerator road map.

¹⁹ See <https://www.ilo.org/es/projects-and-partnerships/projects/acelerador-mundial-del-empleo-y-la-proteccion-social-para-transiciones>

Nepal

1. Vision

The Global Accelerator is supporting Nepal's 16th National Development Plan and its Smooth Transition Strategy for graduation from least developed country status in 2026 by promoting decent domestic employment and expanding social protection coverage in line with national priorities on governance, social justice and prosperity.

2. Governance and coordination

The National Planning Commission confirmed the country's high-level commitment to join the Global Accelerator initiative in 2024. The Commission chairs the National Steering Committee (NSC) for the Global Accelerator, which includes the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies, employers' and workers' organizations and relevant UN agencies. The World Bank participates in the NSC as an observer.

3. Key highlights, activities and outcomes

“As we move forward, our future will depend not only on the number of jobs we create but also on how fair and inclusive those jobs are. In our National Action Plan, we have identified 20 structural challenges. Other key issues concern social protection and employment. The critical question is how to lay the foundations for GDP growth. So, the Global Accelerator aims to support the alignment of our overall objectives with effective job creation. Our three national goals in this endeavour are centred on three pillars: governance, social justice and prosperity.”

– Prof. Dr Shiva Raj Adhikari, former-Vice-Chairman of the National Planning Commission.

Image 11. Workshop on the development of Nepal's Global Accelerator road map.



Nepal is addressing the critical challenges faced by vulnerable population groups – particularly women, youth (new labour market entrants and the unemployed) and informal workers – with regard to being more productive and having access to decent employment opportunities, including universal, comprehensive and adequate social protection. The country is improving co-ordination and capacity-building, generating evidence and fostering dialogue to ensure that appropriate policies are developed. Moreover, it is receiving technical assistance for the implementation of strategic programmes.

The implementation of the Global Accelerator initiative in Nepal has started with a UN system joint programme funded by the Joint SDG Fund through the Seed Funding Track and implemented by the ILO, UNICEF, the UNDP and UN-Women. This is complemented by a UN–World Bank joint programme launched as part of the first M-GA funding round and implemented by the ILO, UNICEF and the World Bank. The main activities carried out under the joint programmes are detailed below:

- Five studies have been initiated to support the development of the Global Accelerator road map and provide evidence to identify entry points for interventions. The studies deal with the following topics:
 - **High-potential job-creating sectors** – in line with the 16th National Development Plan and focusing on women and youth
 - **Macroeconomic environment for employment and social protection** – to inform priority actions for the design of integrated policies, particularly during and after Nepal’s graduation from least developed country status;
 - **Mapping the coverage and adequacy of social protection schemes** – to inform the setting of priorities for social protection schemes; local-level schemes will also be captured;
 - **Gender-aware policy coherence and financing strategies** – to identify priority actions, improve gender awareness in Nepal’s legal framework and inform a sustainable financing strategy for the implementation of the Global Accelerator initiative;



Nepal’s road map in focus

Nepal’s road map has three strategic entry points:

- strengthen quality, coherence and relevance of TVET for enhanced and inclusive employability
 - digitalization and integrated systems to improve enterprise registration, robust labour market information, social security enrolment accelerating to formalization
 - strengthen social protection and expand coverage for children and informal workers.
- **“Green” employment diagnostics for a just transition in Nepal’s climate-resilient future** – to recognize and address the negative impacts of climate change and environmental challenges on the labour market, poverty and inequality, and provide recommendations to mitigate these by identifying emerging green industries, jobs and skills needs for the future.
 - **A national workshop was held in June 2025** that brought together all stakeholders to determine priority sectors (tourism, the digital and platform economies, green energy, hospitality, the care economy, healthcare and agriculture) for job creation and the extension of social protection. Opportunities were identified for the strengthening of existing policies and schemes.
 - **Consultations were also held in all seven provinces of Nepal** between July and August 2025 to ensure that provincial- and local-level priorities and needs are appropriately reflected in the national road map.
 - **Agriculture, tourism and industry (including manufacturing) were consistently identified as three key priority areas** when it comes to promoting decent work, linking to social protection and strengthening climate resilience.

- The groundwork was laid for **interventions in the care economy** through the finalization and dissemination of an integrated and comprehensive care policy and by piloting care service models.
- **Interministerial collaboration has been strengthened and stakeholders have been rallied** around integrated solutions for job creation and social protection. Stakeholders are increasingly recognizing that the Global Accelerator presents an opportunity to adjust existing social protection and employment-related programmes.
- The Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security is keen to **align political commitments under the Internal Employment Promotion Decade (2025–34)** and the forthcoming National Employment Promotion Programme with the Global Accelerator national road map.
- The M-GA is strengthening the Global Accelerator initiative by supporting priority elements of Nepal’s draft Global Accelerator road map through **coordinated action on cross-cutting reforms, notably the implementation of the Integrated National Framework on Social Protection** and the integration of social protection with employment and enterprise development.
 - Building on ongoing government, **UN and World Bank initiatives**, the M-GA is strengthening institutional capacity to expand social protection coverage and improve employment outcomes for workers in MSMEs, with a focus on productivity, formalization and workplace-based learning in priority sectors.
 - The government has adopted the **Integrated National Financing Strategy (INFS)** supported by the UN in 2025, which is centred on pro-employment economic growth. This is paving way for the consolidated public financing together with directing institutional and private financing for job creation in the country
 - The ILO’s Macroeconomic Diagnostic for Jobs, Social Protection and Just Transitions highlighted **structural constraints to employment-intensive growth, policy incoherence, climate vulnerability, and risks** associated with Nepal’s forthcoming LDC graduation in 2026. It recommended a development strategy centered on industrialization, entrepreneurship (especially MSMEs and IT), and the integration of employment, gender, and climate objectives into macroeconomic policy.
- **UNICEF’s strategic review of social protection policies** informed priority setting, fiscal sustainability, and investment planning.
- The ILO’s Green Employment Diagnostics guided just-transition policies by **identifying emerging green jobs, skills need, and measures to mitigate climate-related employment risks**, collectively informing the national roadmap.
- UNDP’s sectoral diagnostic on job creation potential and investment priorities in Nepal provided **adequate evidence to identify potentially high job growth sectors and investment requirement** and informing the proposed national roadmap accordingly.

4. Next steps and latest updates

- The Global Accelerator road map is expected to be validated in March 2026. This process will also guide domestic resource mobilization efforts.
- The National Planning Commission is keen to seize promising opportunities that are opening up in the country to fulfil the road map’s aspirations. Some of these opportunities are: (a) the integrated national financing framework for pro-employment economic growth and the World Bank’s Country Partnership Framework for Nepal for 2025–31, which is focused on job-creating growth and resilience against natural disasters; and (b) the ADB’s Country Partnership Strategy for Nepal for 2025–29, which is focused on private sector-led growth, youth employment and resilience.
- Nepal has been selected to receive funding under the Pathfinder Track of the second M-GA funding round and started implementing the corresponding activities in 2025. This funding is expected to be used for pilot interventions focused on the care sector, one of the potential priority sectors identified for the Global Accelerator road map.

Philippines

1. Vision

The Philippines is using the Global Accelerator initiative to develop a strategic framework for the sustainable creation of decent employment and enhanced social protection, focusing on workers in the construction and transport sectors.

The focus areas of the country's road map include: social protection tailored to construction and transport workers; employment policies for inclusive labour market growth; the provision of TVET to support upskilling; formalization of the informal economy; and the inclusion of women, youth and persons with disabilities in all labour and protection strategies.

2. Governance and coordination

The Department of Labor and Employment confirmed the country's official commitment to the Global Accelerator initiative in March 2024. The Trabaho Para sa Bayan (TPB) Inter-Agency Council serves as the National Steering Committee.²⁰ The TPB Inter-Agency Council is chaired by the Department of Economy, Planning and Development and co-chaired by the Department of Labor and Employment and the Department of Trade and Industry. Representatives of employers' and workers' organizations, marginalized population groups (persons with disabilities, women, youth, informal sector workers and older persons) and the informal sector are also part of the National Steering Committee.

A Technical Working Group for the Global Accelerator was created under the TPB Inter-Agency Council to lead the drafting of the road map. UN agencies, the World Bank and other development partners participate in its meetings. In addition, Outcome Group 2 of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, which deals with decent work, is also involved in the road map's development.

3. Key highlights, activities and outcomes

“Successful national transformations towards the Global Accelerator's objectives hinge on three critical pillars. First, multi-stakeholder engagement and an inclusive consultation process are non-negotiable. Secondly, sectoral targeting must be strategic to create maximum multiplier effects. Finally, achieving the Global Accelerator's objectives requires established institutional mechanisms.”

– Ms Carmela I. Torres, Undersecretary, Department of Labor and Employment.

The implementation of the Global Accelerator initiative in the Philippines has been supported by a UN system joint programme funded by the Joint SDG Fund through the Seed Funding Track and implemented by the ILO, the UNDP and UNICEF. This is complemented by a UN–World Bank joint programme launched as part of the first M-GA funding round and implemented by the ILO, UNICEF, the UNDP and the World Bank. The following activities are being carried out under the joint programmes:

- **The Global Accelerator road map and accompanying financing strategy were developed** through national, subnational and sectoral dialogues and key consultations with stakeholders, and the capacity of stakeholders to implement the road map is being enhanced. In addition, policy and programme reforms are being supported through evidence-based analysis and inclusive dialogue.
- **Three subnational consultations** were conducted with representatives from the construction and transport sectors in June 2025.

²⁰ The Filipino phrase “Trabaho Para sa Bayan” means “Work for the People”.

Image 12. Regional consultation workshop on the Global Accelerator.



- **Three diagnostic and assessment studies** have been undertaken, including a mapping of ALMPs, the development of a legal framework for social protection policy and a study on how to apply the country's integrated national financing framework to promote decent work.
- The road map was **validated in September 2025**.
- Strong collaboration by the social partners and by development partners in the design of the road map has contributed to **inclusive and participatory policymaking**.
- Enhanced coordination among government agencies to align national programmes with the road map has helped to ensure a **comprehensive and integrated approach to job creation and social protection**.
- **Partnerships are being leveraged within the UN system to mobilize expertise and resources that can help to scale up initiatives to promote the creation of decent jobs and social protection** and enhance the country's overall capacity to achieve the SDGs. The M-GA is strengthening the Global Accelerator initiative by supporting the analysis of public expenditure on social protection and employment, the review of existing laws and policies, the strengthening of social protection-related monitoring and evaluation, and the provision of technical assistance for the design of sector-specific skills development programmes in



Philippines' road map in focus

The Philippines' road map has four strategic entry points:

- greening infrastructure investments
- formalization and informal sector transition
- future-ready skills development
- inclusive social protection expansion.

the priority sectors of construction and transport.

- The UN-World Bank joint programme contributes to the **institutionalized employment strategy** (enshrined in the Trabaho Para sa Bayan Act of 2023) that the World Bank and the ILO helped the Government to implement during the COVID-19 crisis. The joint programme initiated the Costing and Fiscal Space Analysis of the Social Protection Floor (SPF), with a specific focus on children and the working-age population.
- To **establish a Community of Practice (CoP) on Family-Friendly Policies (FFP)** and care work, more than 140 Family Welfare Programme (FWP) coordinators were

convened for consultations. These helped with a structured review of existing FWP implementation, identified critical policy and operational gaps, and generated actionable recommendations to strengthen delivery and coordination nationwide.

- Over 140 representatives from companies and workers' associations in Region X (Northern Mindanao), including the transportation and construction sectors, were convened by the Northern Mindanao Family Welfare Committee (FWC) Convention, to **strengthen advocacy and implementation of workplace programmes** promoting gender equality, child rights, and safe and respectful working environments, and advanced dialogue on family-friendly workplace practices.
- To support the strengthening of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems for social protection, the UN-World Bank joint programme supported the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in convening the

Social Protection Statistics Conference. This helped capacitate over 100 participants from national and sub-national institutions on the **use of social protection statistics and analytical tools for programme implementation and monitoring.**

- Building on existing World Bank and UN efforts on employment recovery, social protection floors and adaptive social protection, the M-GA reinforces **institutional capacity for evidence-based policymaking** through analytical work on public expenditure, fiscal space, unemployment protection and skills development, while strengthening monitoring and evaluation systems.

4. Next steps and latest updates

- The validated Global Accelerator road map will be formally launched in 2026.
- A macro-level diagnostic study using the SMSD tool is under way, with completion targeted for 2026.

Rwanda

1. Vision

The Global Accelerator will help Rwanda to integrate job creation and social protection into national policies, promoting gender equality and the inclusion of vulnerable groups. It will support formalization, decent work in agriculture and tackling the high NEET rate among youth and women, while identifying promising and scalable initiatives in agribusiness, manufacturing and the creative industries to boost employment and extend social protection coverage.

2. Governance and coordination

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN) confirmed Rwanda's high-level commitment to the Global Accelerator initiative in January 2024. The Ministry of Public Service and Labour (MIFOTRA) is chairing the National Steering Committee for the Global Accelerator, while the UN Resident Coordinator's Office is

acting as a co-chair. Other stakeholders will be fully engaged in the Technical Working Group for the Global Accelerator.

3. Key highlights, activities and outcomes

The implementation of the Global Accelerator initiative in Rwanda has been supported by UN system joint programme funded by the Joint SDG Fund through the Seed Funding Track and implemented by the ILO and UN Women. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the IOM and UNICEF are supporting the initiative in Rwanda. The main activities carried out under the joint programme are detailed below:

- Supporting the **development of Rwanda's Global Accelerator road map** and

Image 13. Workshop with national stakeholders in Rwanda on formalization of the economy.



capacity-building for formalization through increased social protection coverage. The Centrale des Syndicats des Travailleurs du Rwanda (CESTRAR) in collaboration with two other national trade union confederations (COTRAF and COSYLI)²¹ and with support from the ILO Bureau for Workers' Activities – **developed and adopted a policy paper on the Global Accelerator to inform the position and arguments of Rwandan trade unions when co-designing the road map together with other stakeholders.**

- **The policy paper articulates three approaches:** formalizing and digitalizing the urban economy; modernizing and “greening” the agricultural sector; and achieving gender equality through sustained investments in the care economy.
- A study has been undertaken **on decent work and social protection as drivers of a gender-transformative agricultural sector in Rwanda.**
- The Ministry of Public Service and Labour convened a strategic workshop with national stakeholders to identify barriers and opportunities



Rwanda's road map in focus

Rwanda's road map has four strategic entry points:

- creating and sustaining productive and decent jobs
- extending social protection to all workers, including informal and platform workers
- strengthening institutional coordination employment, social protection, and climate action
- promoting inclusion, gender equality, and rights-based approaches to work.

for formalizing the economy, that further informed the priority areas of action for the road map:

- **Agribusiness, manufacturing, creative industries** and the **digital economy** have been identified as the priority sectors.

²¹ COTRAF = Labour and Fraternity Congress (Congrès des Travailleurs et de la Fraternité); COSYLI = National Council of Free Trade Union Organizations (Conseil National des Organisations Syndicales Libres).

- **Youth, women and persons with disabilities** are the priority groups to be targeted.
- **Social protection has been identified as the cross-cutting theme** across all sectors and interventions.
- Complementary technical groundwork performed in conjunction with the preparation of the road map has **raised national awareness of the Global Accelerator** and will inform strategic policy development.
- Rwanda has **formalized its national roadmap**, focussing on agribusiness, manufacturing, and the creative industry and digital economy as the key priorities, while social protection, decent work and formalization will be cross-cutting issues across sectors.

4. Next steps and latest updates

- Rwanda will validate its national road map in March 2026.
- The Ministry of Public Service and Labour, UN-Women and the ILO have commissioned a study on decent work and social protection in agriculture. It is aimed at: (a) providing evidence-based insights; (b) promoting gender-transformative approaches; (c) fostering stakeholder engagement; and (d) disseminating relevant knowledge.
- Rwanda has been selected to receive funding under the second M-GA funding round and UN-World Bank joint programme activities started in the final quarter of 2025.

Senegal

1. Vision

Through the Global Accelerator initiative, Senegal seeks to support the development and coordination of vocational training policies and expand the social protection floor, particularly for youth and informal workers. The initiative is supporting the establishment of an integrated policy framework that consolidates international cooperation and national-level public efforts in a more coherent manner, along with the development of a sustainable financing strategy for domestic resource mobilization.

Senegal is prioritizing social protection, TVET and employment policy, particularly within the agricultural, construction and informal sectors, with an additional focus on young people and digitalization. The approach being followed emphasizes systemic reform, inter-agency coordination and strategic investment planning.

2. Governance and coordination

The Government confirmed Senegal's high-level commitment to the Global Accelerator in December 2023. The Direction Générale de la Planification et des Politiques Économiques (DGPPE) under the Ministry of Economy, Planning

and Cooperation is overseeing the implementation of the Global Accelerator initiative in Senegal. The DGPPE leads the relevant technical working group, which includes the Ministry of Family, Social Action and Solidarity and the Labour Ministry, other line ministries, employers' and workers' organizations, civil society and development partners. The working group's mandate is to conceptualize the Global Accelerator road map, supervise all associated activities and set up the governance body.

3. Key highlights, activities and outcomes

“The Global Accelerator initiative is of particular interest to Senegal, as it goes beyond simply providing additional resources and supports the structural improvement of policies through an integrated approach”

– Mr Souleymane Diallo, Director General, General Directorate for Planning and Economic Policy.

Image 14. Technical workshop to discuss and validate Senegal's Global Accelerator road map.



The implementation of the Global Accelerator initiative in Senegal has been supported by a UN system joint programme funded by the Joint SDG Fund through the Seed Funding Track and implemented by the ILO, UNICEF and the UNDP. In addition, the French Government has extended its support to the ILO's work related to the Global Accelerator in Senegal. The main activities carried out under the joint programme are detailed below:

- **The road map was drafted and subsequently, in May 2025, technically validated.** The first implementation phase (2025–29), whose time-frame is aligned with that of the initial phase of the Government's national development strategy, will focus on the extension of social protection to informal workers through automatic affiliation mechanisms and on vocational training in agriculture, agricultural transformation and processing, and the construction sector.
- **The results framework was developed,** initially through a partnership between ILO and UNICEF, with financial support from the Joint SDG Fund.
 - Relevant indicators have been identified, annual milestones defined, the baselines and institutions to be involved in monitoring agreed upon, and the need for specific studies for data collection has been identified.
- **Government officials have been trained in how to use the SMSD methodology** to guide strategic investment planning.
- The DGPPE was supported in hosting workshops on the development of public investment projects:
 - **The Global Accelerator has promoted an integrated approach,** specifically by helping to frame all kinds of public investment projects around the integration of social protection, skills development, employment and other social policies. This marks a key achievement in evidence-based planning, which will be built on by applying the SMSD model to the ex ante evaluation of national investment projects.

- **Social protection has been elevated to a strategic level within public administration.** The road map development process has brought together key stakeholders for coordinated action under a shared vision and common understanding regarding job creation and social protection.
- Engagements with, among others, the French Development Agency (AFD), the EU and the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) have created momentum for promoting the Global Accelerator’s mission and **establishing a collaborative framework** that can be leveraged during the road map’s implementation.
- A high-quality collaboration between the World Bank and the UN system has been launched under the M-GA-funded project, enabling the development of joint initiatives aimed at **expanding social protection to the informal sector and enhancing vocational training opportunities** while also fostering a broader alignment between the various interventions by bilateral and multilateral partners in Senegal.

4. Next steps and latest updates

- The road map was validated technically and politically, and the TSF and development partners will align their projects with the road map to ensure coordinated action.
- A financing strategy that involves national and international stakeholders and is aligned with the public policy funding framework of the Ministry of Finance and Budget will be developed, focusing on domestic resource mobilization.
- In addition, a joint advocacy strategy for social protection financing, intended principally for national authorities, will be conceptualized by development partners.
- Two training events on the SMSD are planned to ensure that this methodology can be incorporated into ongoing strategic planning for key investments and that macroeconomic diagnostics can be carried out effectively to support structural transformation policies.
- Senegal was selected to receive funding under the second M-GA funding round and UN–World Bank joint programme activities started in the final quarter of 2025.

Viet Nam

1. Vision

In 2023, the Party Resolution No. 42-NQ/TW of the Vietnamese Communist Party’s Central Executive Committee formalized the goal for Viet Nam to become a Global Accelerator pathfinder country. Efforts to operationalize the initiative in the country are aimed at addressing persistent challenges and gender inequalities by expanding decent and productive employment, reducing informality and building an inclusive, accessible and rights-based social protection system that is gender-responsive and resilient to shocks, and meets the needs of all people across the life cycle.

2. Governance and coordination

The aforementioned resolution confirmed Viet Nam’s commitment to the Global Accelerator initiative in November 2023. The Ministry of Home Affairs has designated the Institute of State Organizational and Labour Sciences (ISOL) to coordinate action on the Global Accelerator, leveraging the expertise of other departments within the Ministry, other line ministries (such as the Ministry of Education and Training, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Industry and Trade) and the social partners, which are also actively involved in technical meetings and consultations.

Image 15. Consultation meeting on the Global Accelerator in Viet Nam.



A steering committee for the UN system joint programme, co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator, is being established to oversee and monitor the joint programme's implementation. Moreover, regular technical meetings are organized among UN technical agencies and with ISOL to plan and implement the activities in question.

3. Key highlights, activities and outcomes

The implementation of the Global Accelerator initiative in Viet Nam has been supported by a UN system joint programme funded by the Joint SDG Fund through the Seed Funding Track and implemented by the ILO, the UNDP and UN-Women. This is complemented by a UN–World Bank joint programme launched as part of the first M-GA funding round and implemented by the ILO, the UNDP and the World Bank. The key activities carried out under the joint programmes are detailed below:

- **The road map was drafted**, and it presents strategic priorities and actionable steps to align national efforts with the Global Accelerator's goals. It promotes integrated approaches to job creation and social protection, with a **strong emphasis on vulnerable groups, gender equality and climate resilience**.
- A technical meeting was organized with the Ministry of Home Affairs and national stakeholders to validate the technical assessment and discuss the draft road map.
- A national consultation workshop was organized to discuss the draft road map with national stakeholders.
- Efforts were undertaken to enhance gender-responsive labour market measures for a green transition and to strengthen gender-responsive social protection systems in line with broader SDG-related transitions.
- **A technical meeting was convened in March 2025** to discuss the Global Accelerator initiative with various government entities under the new government structure along with other key stakeholders.
 - The meeting facilitated dialogue among national partners on **potential directions** for the Global Accelerator in Viet Nam and the sharing of knowledge with another pathfinder country, namely the Philippines, which took part in the meeting in the spirit of South–South cooperation.
- **Viet Nam participated in the Asia-Pacific Global Accelerator Policy Forum** organized in Cambodia in April 2025 to share best practices and find common solutions for how to augment the initiative's impact in the region. It was

represented at the event by ISOL (subordinate to the Ministry of Home Affairs), the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Vietnam General Confederation of Labour.

- The M-GA is strengthening the Global Accelerator initiative by **supporting Viet Nam’s response to demographic change and the “green” transition**, improving access to productive employment and more inclusive, gender-responsive social protection systems while addressing the climate-related risks faced by vulnerable groups.
 - The UN–World Bank joint programme builds on the **existing work by the ILO and the World Bank on social insurance** and the ILO’s support in orienting Viet Nam’s **career development support system towards “green” jobs for youth**.
 - It supported ISOL in **developing and completing a technical assessment of policies, institutional context and trends** in employment and social protection in support of just transitions in Viet Nam. The assessment generated gender-responsive evidence to inform the enhancement of career development tools, enabling young people, particularly female youth, to better access green job opportunities and related support services. It also identified systemic challenges and barriers and proposed actionable recommendations to enhance youth access to green jobs and career development opportunities.
 - The programme conducted a qualitative study to identify the factors influencing men’s and women’s **decisions for participation in the social insurance system in Viet Nam**, with particular attention to its links with lump-sum social insurance withdrawals. Innovative policy options (e.g. care credit mechanisms) have been identified through simulated scenarios, providing practical inputs for inclusion in national roadmaps and priority reform areas.
 - Policy-oriented research on **social protection for outdoor workers exposed to heatwaves in urban contexts** is being undertaken, to examine impacts on health,

productivity and incomes, and assess whether existing social protection measures are accessible, adequate and responsive to climate risks, with a focus on extreme heat.

Several recent policy reforms have helped to create an enabling environment for advancing the Global Accelerator initiative in Viet Nam:

- Decree No. 158/2025/ND-CP **details and guides the implementation of several articles of the 2024 Law on Social Insurance dealing with compulsory social insurance and relevant schemes** for employees who are not eligible for pensions and are not old enough to enjoy social pension allowances.
- Circular No. 12/2025/TT-BNV setting out **implementation guidance for the mandatory social insurance schemes** was promulgated in June 2025. It covers, in detail, the provision of social insurance benefits in accordance with the Social Insurance Act, including sickness, maternity, pension and survivor benefits.
- In June 2025, **Viet Nam’s National Assembly passed the revised Employment Law**, which includes updates in technical areas such as job creation, labour market information, employment services, skills development and unemployment insurance.
 - Decree No. 176/ND-CP/2025 details the introduction of a social retirement allowance under the new Social Insurance Act. **As from July 2025, an additional 1.6 million older people started receiving a social pension in Viet Nam.**

4. Next steps and latest updates

- The Global Accelerator road map was finalized and endorsed through interministerial and government approval processes, which ensures its integration into national socio-economic development plans, the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for 2027–31 and the Decent Work Country Programme for 2027–31.
- A Global Accelerator monitoring and evaluation framework will be drawn up with harmonized indicators related to employment, social protection, gender and just transition outcomes.

New pathfinder countries

Bhutan

1. Vision

In joining the Global Accelerator initiative, Bhutan seeks to enhance its social protection system through targeted funding strategies and to support economic transformation by creating decent jobs for women, persons with disabilities and the youth, in line with the country's 13th Five-Year Plan.

Bhutan's Global Accelerator road map focuses on the strengthening and expansion of its social protection system, employment policy and productivity growth, TVET enhancement and youth employment, with a special focus on supporting women and persons with disabilities.

2. Governance and coordination

The existing Joint Steering Committee for the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, co-chaired by the Secretary of the Ministry of Finance and the UN Resident Coordinator, serves as the national governance structure for the Global Accelerator in Bhutan and will be responsible for implementation of the road map and associated activities. Government ministries, UN agencies and CSOs are represented in the Committee, workers and employers will be engaged. The World Bank and the ADB are invited to participate in Global Accelerator activities in Bhutan.

The Global Accelerator road map was validated in April 2025.

3. Key highlights, activities and outcomes

- Bhutan expressed its interest in joining the Global Accelerator initiative in December 2024 through a letter from the Cabinet Secretary.
 - The Secretary of the Office of Cabinet Affairs and Strategic Coordination and



Bhutan's road map in focus

Bhutan's road map has seven priority areas:

- establish an integrated social protection management information system
- develop and implement a multi-tiered disability support scheme
- advance the skills required for the twenty-first century
- promote youth entrepreneurship
- transform agriculture
- ensure urban-rural inclusivity
- strengthen public service delivery and institutional capacity.

An overview of the road map is available [here](#).²⁰

the UN worked together to **develop the country's road map, which is aligned with the country's 13th Five-Year Plan** in its emphasis on inclusive economic growth, social protection and sustainable employment opportunities.

- The road map was validated at a workshop organized by the Office of Cabinet Affairs and Strategic Coordination, UNICEF and the ADB in March 2025 and **endorsed by the Government in April 2025**.
- As part of the 13th Five-Year Plan, the Government has reserved specific budgetary space for the development of a social protection strategy, and the relevant UNICEF workstream is supporting the Global Accelerator initiative in that regard.

22 See the Bhutan road map, <https://www.unglobalaccelerator.org/bhutans-global-accelerator-roadmap-towards-jobs-and-social-protection-just-transitions>

4. Next steps and latest updates

- The focus is on operationalizing endorsed strategies, initiating funded pilot activities, aligning the ongoing UNICEF-led work on a social protection strategy with Global Accelerator implementation priorities, and working with development partners to mobilize funding and implement the road map.
- The forthcoming update to the common country analysis will present a deep dive into demographic developments in Bhutan, including a specific chapter on the potential impacts on social protection in the light of rapid population decline.
- Bhutan has been selected to receive funding under the second M-GA funding round and UN–World Bank joint programme activities started at the end of 2025.
- The joint programme implemented by the UNDP, UNICEF and the World Bank will focus on enhancing the productivity and resilience of informal workers and enterprises through improved access to skills, finance and social protection. It will support the Government in strengthening managed migration policies to ensure safe and productive labour mobility, while improving the quality and effectiveness of employment support systems. The programme will also promote disability-inclusive social protection to ensure that services are accessible and equitable. Taken together, these efforts are advancing Bhutan’s vision for inclusive and sustainable human development in keeping with the SDGs.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

1. Vision

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is focusing on the stimulation of economic recovery and environmental transition by addressing challenges linked to youth unemployment and social protection while implementing priority programmes on universal health coverage and the promotion of decent employment.

The Global Accelerator has identified a dual-pillar approach for (a) enhancing formalization in productive sectors through skills development, employment and social insurance; and (b) bridging contributory and non-contributory social protection systems by improving coordination, expanding coverage and supporting sustainable financing strategies.

2. Governance and coordination

A Steering Group will be established; key government stakeholders have been involved through the development of the proposal submitted as part of the second M-GA funding round, including the Ministry of Planning and Development Aid Coordination, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Solidarity and Humanitarian Action, the Ministry of Public Health, Hygiene and Social Welfare, the

Ministry of Employment, the Ministry of Vocational Training, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, the Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, the Health Solidarity Fund, the National Social Security Fund, provincial authorities, Federation of Enterprises of Congo, the National Commission for Professional Certification, the social partners and civil society.

3. Key highlights, activities and outcomes

A formal request to join the Global Accelerator initiative was submitted in April 2024 by the Minister of Planning, with the intent of working specifically on youth employment and social protection. The main activities undertaken since then are detailed below:

- A country profile was prepared by mapping national **social protection and employment policies**.
 - Coordination meetings were held with the UN Resident Coordinator to work out the specifics of engagement under the initiative and establish a joint understanding and aligned priorities for further action. A

presentation was delivered to the Prime Minister's Office on the Global Accelerator's approach and objectives.

- **Early road map priorities have been identified**, including: social protection, skills development and TVET, employment policy, tackling informality, improving youth employment, systemic reforms, economic diversification, policy design and financing.
 - Studies conducted under the ongoing ILO flagship programme "Building Social Protection Floors for All" indicate that progress on social protection coverage has been made in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, but that there are still critical challenges related to data availability, financing and phased implementation.
 - The aforementioned programme has helped to lay the foundations for Global Accelerator activities in the country by **developing initial cost estimation scenarios** for the

various possible arrangements for the provision of universal health coverage.

- In addition, the programme is helping to identify the contributory capacity of several sectors of the informal economy and to set appropriate contribution rates under the scheme for independent workers in order to achieve universal health coverage.

4. Next steps and latest updates

- Preparatory meetings will be hosted and a mission conducted to develop the Global Accelerator road map. A workshop related to the mission is scheduled to take place in the first half of 2026.
- The Democratic Republic of the Congo has been selected to receive funding under the second M-GA funding round and UN-World Bank joint programme activities started in the final quarter of 2025.

Guinea

1. Vision

Guinea is prioritizing the promotion of inclusive economic growth by creating decent jobs especially for youth and extending social protection to informal workers, alongside the development of social assistance programmes for vulnerable people. Given that Guinea is a country with rich mineral reserves, the Global Accelerator initiative will seek to leverage large-scale investments in connection with the "Simandou 2040" programme so as to ensure social inclusion and sustainable development.

2. Governance and coordination

Guinea joined the Global Accelerator initiative through a high-level commitment made by the Minister of Planning and International Cooperation and the Minister of Labour and Public Service in June 2024.

The Ministry of Labour and Public Service and the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation are co-leading the current activities

and efforts are under way to set up a national coordination framework. The social partners and CSOs are involved in these efforts.

3. Key highlights, activities and outcomes

"The Global Accelerator's objectives fit perfectly with our development vision, as they match perfectly the strategic priorities for transforming our country. The vision of the Head of State for the Simandou 2040 programme focusses on strategic issues that are taken up by the Global Accelerator, hence the relevance of making the Accelerator a lever to implement the Simandou programme"

– Mr Faya François Bourouno, Former Minister of Labour and Civil Service of Guinea.

The country aims to strengthen the resilience of

its economy and address challenges related to employment and social protection, in line with the Interim Transition Reference Programme for 2022–25 and the demands of the National Committee for Reconciliation and Development. The implementation of the Global Accelerator has been supported by the following activities:

- **The preliminary national priorities for the Global Accelerator road map have been identified**, which include creating decent jobs by rolling out the national employment policy, developing a labour market information system and supporting the transition to formality through vocational training.
 - With regard to **social protection**, the focus is on extending coverage to informal economy workers through systematic enrolment mechanisms and on developing an integrated national social assistance programme. In addition, Guinea will also support the implementation of universal health coverage, which is enshrined as a right in the country's new Constitution (art. 22).
 - The regions and sectors involved in the **Simandou 2040 national programme** will play a pivotal role in advancing these priorities.
 - **The Global Accelerator road map priorities have been strategically positioned within the framework of the country's broader development strategy** and the Simandou 2040

programme, and partnerships with the World Bank and the UNDP have been strengthened by engagement under the M-GA.

- The visibility of social protection and the creation of decent jobs has increased within the two key ministries, complementing existing engagement with ministries responsible for the social sector.

4. Next steps and latest updates

- The process for drafting the road map was launched in November 2025, with a joint UN mission to the country. The two lead ministries, various social sector ministries and their administration branches, the social partners and civil society representatives have been involved in this process alongside UN agencies and international partners.
- Workshops will be organized in the second quarter of 2026 to elaborate the road map priorities and produce a first draft of that document, drawing on existing national strategies, the results of ongoing studies and the Government's own priorities.
- Guinea has been selected to receive funding under the second M-GA funding round and UN–World Bank joint programme activities will start in the first half of 2026.

Image 16. The Minister of Labour and Public Service of Guinea and national stakeholders together with the UN team involved in the Global Accelerator initiative.



Pakistan

1. Vision

Pakistan is focusing on skills development for just transitions in the care sector, with healthcare designated as an initial priority. The availability of skilled healthcare workers is one of the many challenges faced by the country when it comes to ensuring universal health coverage. The lower tiers of the health sector are characterized by informality, which exposes the workforce to precarious working conditions, with women often facing disproportionate disadvantages in that regard. Under the Global Accelerator initiative, Pakistan will address the design and financing of policies for skilling, formalization and social protection in view of the health sector's evolving needs and taking into account the use of technology.

2. Governance and coordination

The Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development is leading the implementation of the Global Accelerator initiative in Pakistan. A tripartite and interministerial National Steering Committee has been established that comprises representatives of the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, the Ministry of Planning, Development and

Reform, the Government's Finance Division, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Commerce, the Government's Economic Affairs Division, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, provincial departments of labour, and workers' and employers' organizations.

3. Key highlights, activities and outcomes

“Each country has its own jobs and social protection ecosystem and they have nuanced approaches and policy interventions (to improve these systems)...As a new pathfinder country, Pakistan looks forward to incorporating (the Global Accelerator's) pillars and entry points, and also explore opportunities for international cooperation”

– Mr Hafeez Ur Rehman, Section Officer for Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development.

Image 17. Delegation from Pakistan at the Asia Pacific Global Accelerator Policy Forum, Phnom Penh.



Pakistan joined the Global Accelerator initiative as a pathfinder country in July 2024 through a high-level commitment made by the Minister of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development. The commitment builds on the work undertaken to map Pakistan’s existing social protection system and generate recommendations for making the system more effective and inclusive. The following activities have been carried out in that regard:

- A **policy analysis paper**, developed by UNICEF and the ILO, has informed the priorities for the Global Accelerator national road map, including formalization of the economy by bringing more workers and enterprises into the formal sector.
 - This is complemented by a **push to rationalize the country’s social protection system**, which remains underfunded and fragmented. There is limited awareness of life-cycle-based social protection, and key gaps persist in areas such as disability and unemployment coverage.
 - **Targeted interventions are planned in growth-oriented sectors** to stimulate employment, as are measures to recognize and enhance women’s contributions to the economy.
- The pivotal role of job creation, human capital development and social and labour protection in building an equitable society and **the need to align domestic investment more effectively with national and provincial priorities were highlighted as the key reasons prompting Pakistan to join the Global Accelerator initiative.**
- A project has been initiated together with SOCIEUX+ **to support the private sector in assessing awareness, preparedness and commitments for a low-carbon transition and the creation of “green” jobs**, identify challenges, opportunities and capacity gaps in the context of a just transition, and provide recommendations for enhancing the readiness of relevant industries.

4. Next steps and latest updates

- The road map development process is being prioritized and was launched in February 2026.
- Pakistan submitted a proposal under the second M-GA funding round and has been selected to receive funding for a UN Joint Programme from the Joint SDG Fund. The joint programme activities started in the first quarter of 2026.



Tunisia

1. Vision

Under the Global Accelerator initiative, Tunisia seeks to strengthen the social and economic resilience of its population by facilitating the transition from social assistance to social insurance, and at the same time from informal to formal employment. This is to be achieved through integrated employment and social protection measures that are gender-responsive and inclusive, supported by coordinated actions and strong national ownership.

2. Governance and coordination

Tunisia joined the Global Accelerator initiative as a pathfinder country on 8 August 2025, through a letter expressing high-level commitment submitted by H.E. Mr Samir Abdelhafidh, Minister of Economy and Planning, to the UN Resident Coordinator in Tunisia.

Implementation of the initiative in Tunisia will be led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Migration and Tunisians Abroad and the Ministry of Economy and Planning. A formal coordination mechanism will be established as the initiative takes shape.

3. Key highlights, activities and outcomes

“Tunisia has joined this initiative, driven by its strong conviction and its strong commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals, including justice, access to social protection and the creation of decent jobs and ensuring a just transition. These objectives are at the very heart of our national priorities...The Global Accelerator, for us, is an appropriate and flexible tool, and we can integrate it into our national strategies, to accelerate the

implementation of these objectives and consolidate the achievements made.”

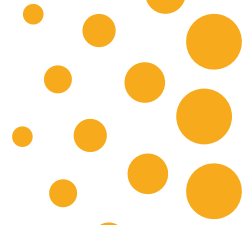
– Ms Kaouthar Chelbi, Minister Plenipotentiary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Migration and Tunisians Abroad.

The implementation of the Global Accelerator initiative in Tunisia has started with a UN system joint programme launched as part of the second M-GA funding round and implemented by the ILO, UNICEF and the World Bank. The key activities carried out under the UN–World Bank joint programme are detailed below:

- A project entitled **“From Social Assistance to Social Security: Building Pathways to Decent Work for All in Tunisia”** will be implemented, with the following goals:
 - developing a road map to facilitate the transition from social assistance to contributory social insurance and to promote formalization;
 - enhancing national capacity for a policy dialogue to enable the development of an integrated social protection system combined with suitably adapted labour market activation programmes to facilitate access to decent employment;
 - designing the technical, legal and institutional elements required for the operationalization of the unemployment insurance scheme, along with accompanying activation measures to support workers’ transition to formal employment.

4. Next steps

- Tunisia has been selected to receive funding under the second M-GA funding round and UN–World Bank joint programme activities have started in the final quarter of 2025.



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Section 4





Section 4. Lessons learned

The current reporting cycle provided an important opportunity to reflect on the theory of change underlying the Global Accelerator and its proof of concept. Some of the main lessons learned from implementation of the initiative in pathfinder countries to date are set out below:

1. High-level political commitment has ensured accelerated action and resource mobilization

The Global Accelerator is based on the idea of promoting and accelerating the creation of decent jobs and universal social protection in order to facilitate just transitions. Its ability to turn this bold vision into tangible results can be credited in part to the strong political backing obtained in each pathfinder country. The fact that the initiative was launched by the UN Secretary-General gave it the necessary prominence to engage with, and secure commitments directly from, Heads of State or Government and align political will with coordinated action. In some cases, the commitment was made jointly by the key ministries involved to advance policies that reflect the Global Accelerator's principles. The result of such cooperation has been twofold: social protection and employment policies in the pathfinder countries are not only better financed and more comprehensive, but they are also being designed to drive sustainable economic growth. Importantly, public investments are increasingly being assessed in terms of their broader social impact as well as on the basis of

their economic returns. The Global Accelerator's narrative appealed to six key donors from the very outset: Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, the Republic of Korea and Spain. Without their support, this ambitious idea would have remained an idea without any concrete implementation or tangible proof. Bridging social and economic development, the Global Accelerator clearly has the potential to attract other donors and partners.

2. Managing disruption through social dialogue, trust and coordination

Progress on some activities and in some countries has been slower than anticipated, reflecting the time needed to engage with multiple government and development partners, as well as disruptions caused by elections, political transitions and shifting national priorities. These developments required robust transition strategies, specifically the institutional anchoring of Global Accelerator-related activities, early engagement with new leadership and the provision of regular briefings to incoming officials. The flexibility afforded by the Joint SDG Fund also allowed programmes to adapt to evolving contexts. A key lesson has been that early and continuous tripartite social dialogue, involving governments and workers' and employers' representatives, builds resilience in the face of disruption. Stakeholder mapping, the existence of clearly defined focal points for each agency involved and strong mechanisms for coordination across UN partners and with

governments and the social partners not only reduced delays but also helped to foster trust, streamline operations and create a shared understanding of roles and responsibilities.

3. Governance structures enable democratic participation by all actors

Strong governance arrangements are critical to keep the Global Accelerator on track and maintain its momentum at both the national and global levels. National steering committees bring together ministries, employers, workers and other stakeholders to align priorities and coordinate action, generating shared ownership of results. They provide a platform for dialogue across sectors that might otherwise tend to work in silos, making it possible to link financing with policy decisions in a coherent way. At the global level, governance structures connect national experiences with strategic orientation, knowledge-sharing and advocacy efforts. Together, national and global governance arrangements constitute the backbone of the Global Accelerator initiative, ensuring that ambition is translated into measurable progress.

4. Road maps are the “glue” that holds everything together

The Global Accelerator national road maps turn vision into action, making them the “glue” that hold the initiative together. Developed through social dialogue and detailed consultations with governments, employers, workers and other stakeholders, a Global Accelerator road map defines priorities, sets the direction of travel and provides a shared framework for action. It helps to align public and private investments with national priorities, while ensuring that efforts are not duplicated but, rather, complement one another. By identifying what can realistically be achieved with the resources available, the road map drives implementation of the initiative in a given country and creates accountability with regard to the progress made. It enables the labour and finance ministries, among others, to work jointly, while also giving the social partners a voice in shaping outcomes that affect them directly. Without the road map, efforts

risk remaining fragmented and ad hoc; with such a document in place, the Global Accelerator is greater than the sum of its parts, delivering integrated, coherent and impactful results.

5. The Technical Support Facility is instrumental in fully unlocking the Global Accelerator’s potential

The TSF has been central to driving the initiative forward by combining resource mobilization, technical expertise and evidence generation. It has supported pathfinder countries in developing road maps and results frameworks, and created practical tools – such as the Informality Dashboard, the SMSD and guidance on macroeconomic diagnostics – to inform policy choices and make public investments more effective. The TSF is helping to strengthen capacity across government agencies and the social partners and ensuring that investments made by development banks and the private sector have a tangible social impact. Beyond the direct provision of support to countries, the TSF is raising the Global Accelerator’s visibility at international forums and spearheading donor engagement and fundraising activities. The TSF has also been working closely with the Joint SDG Fund and the World Bank on organizing calls for proposals for projects under the Global Accelerator and the M-GA. Without the TSF, many of these activities would probably have remained fragmented or under-resourced. Its unifying role ensures that efforts are coherent, scalable and capable of delivering real impact.

6. The UN Resident Coordinator acts as a bridge between the various partners involved and as the anchor for multilateral action at the country level

As an initiative based on the “One-UN” approach, the Global Accelerator is led at the country level by UN Resident Coordinators. Their convening power has been critical in rallying government support, securing high-level commitments and aligning UN expertise around shared priorities.

By breaking down any silos that may exist across UN agencies, UN Resident Coordinators ensure that technical assistance, policy advice and financing solutions are delivered in a coherent, coordinated manner, making it easier for governments to engage with the UN system as a partner that presents a unified front. This approach not only reduces duplication of efforts, but also multiplies the impact of individual agencies' contributions, resulting in more efficient use of resources. The Joint SDG Fund reinforces this approach by channelling resources towards joint programmes, which contribute to greater coherence and enable the UN system to support the Global Accelerator as a platform for advancing decent work, universal social protection and the broader SDG agenda.

With regard to the M-GA – the joint UN–World Bank mechanism – the UN Resident Coordinator and the World Bank Group Country Manager form a powerful strategic leadership team. They combine normative, legislative and regulatory influence, convening authority and financial and institutional weight, enable coherence across social protection and employment policies, align national policies with sustainable financing strategies and unlock catalytic funding to support integrated programmes. In other words, the M-GA provides a unified, coherent and well-resourced platform, giving countries a single-entry point for technical assistance, policy design, financing and implementation, and paving the way for sustainable social protection systems, decent jobs and structural transformation.

7. Thinking outside the box of traditional partnerships

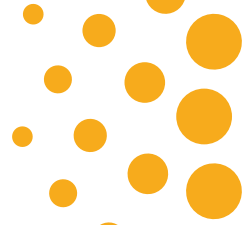
A key lesson from the Global Accelerator initiative has been the importance of involving those who are traditionally not at the forefront of employment and social protection debates, in particular finance ministries and public development banks. By bringing them to the table from the outset, the initiative has shifted the conversation from simply aligning budgets with policies to the direct embedding of financing into the architecture of integrated policy packages. This ensures that the initiative's ambition is matched with available resources, making implementation more realistic and sustainable. Involving PDBs has also created

new opportunities for investments that directly support national priorities related to decent work, social protection and just transitions. This approach not only strengthens labour ministries by giving them a role in budget negotiations but also demonstrates to finance ministries that such investments yield economic and fiscal returns.

Speaking to the “non-converted” has thus been instrumental in moving further and faster. The M-GA builds on this approach through the pursuit of UN–World Bank collaboration both at the global level and in 32 countries, combining the UN's convening power and normative reach with the World Bank's technical expertise and financing leverage, to advance integrated policy, financing and programmatic solutions under a unified national platform.

8. Measuring impact is a complex task, but distinct progress has been made

In the current environment, which is challenging for the UN and development cooperation in general, there is a clear need to gather robust evidence and monitor results in ways that capture the added value of policy and financing integration and enhanced multilateral cooperation. Since the Global Accelerator focuses on areas where countries are already active – such as job creation and social protection – the task at hand is not to produce a “zero to one” change, but rather to demonstrate how the initiative can help to accelerate progress. In many cases, outcomes that might have occurred anyway without the Global Accelerator are materializing faster, on a larger scale or in more integrated and impactful ways. To measure this acceleration, countries are developing national results frameworks that establish baselines, identify indicators and designate institutions to lead follow-up activities, with support provided through the TSF's global framework. This enables results to be tallied nationally and consolidated globally, showing how coordinated action is driving systemic change. Without this evidence base, the Global Accelerator's interrelated results would remain invisible and its added value harder to prove.



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Section
5





Section 5. Way forward

In 2026–27, the Global Accelerator initiative is expected to make progress in the following areas:

Country engagement

The Global Accelerator will engage with new countries, increasing the number of pathfinder countries to at least 20 by the end of 2026.

It will support road map development in Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Pakistan, and Tunisia, and the implementation of national road maps in the other 15 pathfinder countries.

Support to M-GA countries will continue to prioritize integrated social protection and employment approaches, alongside responses to climate change and fragility, conflict, and violence (FCV) contexts. A **Community of Practice** will be established to foster south-south learning and knowledge exchange among pathfinder countries, including through the organization of side events at high-level conferences. One such event is planned on the margins of the International Labour Conference in June 2026.

Donor engagement, partnerships and resource mobilization for the provision of technical assistance to countries

Scaling pooled funding will be essential to sustain and deepen implementation progress. As the

Global Accelerator expands to additional countries and existing pathfinders move from design to implementation, demand for predictable, flexible and coordinated financing will continue to grow. Pooled instruments – including the Joint SDG Fund – will therefore remain critical for mobilizing resources for technical assistance and catalytic support, which can help countries strengthen institutions, develop integrated national financing strategies, and implement sustainable reforms.

This in turn will help **unlock and align larger-scale public and, where appropriate, private financing** for social protection and employment such as locally mobilized resources for technical assistance, new loans and grants from the European Union and Development Banks, public and private sector investments that also advance the creation of decent jobs and the extension of social protection, linking policy reforms with global funds including climate finance, among others. Expanding these instruments will require that countries improve coordination of development partner contributions, strengthen domestic resource mobilization, align public and private investments with national priorities, and ensure that emerging reforms are sustainably financed and nationally owned.

More resources are being mobilized to support the existing and new pathfinder countries that join the initiative.

- **Calls for proposals:**
 - A **third funding round** will be organized in 2026, with two complementary calls for

proposals, one by the Joint SDG Fund, and the other by the World Bank SPR Umbrella Trust Fund (UTF), supported by Germany. The funding round through the Joint SDG Fund will enable pathfinder countries to progress from seed funding to high-impact track (HIT) countries. Additionally, the call places a strong emphasis on securing sustainable and adequate financing for the implementation of the road maps, leveraging public budgets and revenues, public and private investments, and macroeconomic reforms. The call through the World Bank SPR UTF will focus on two thematic areas, namely, (a) fragile, conflict-affected and forced displacement, (b) climate change. It will support approximately ten UN-World Bank joint programmes and will be open to a short-list of both pathfinder and non-pathfinder countries.

- **Donor engagement:**

- **Engagement with existing donors**, Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, the Republic of Korea and Spain, will continue at the global level, including through their strategic guidance for the ongoing implementation of the UN and UN-World Bank joint programmes across the 32 pathfinder and non-pathfinder countries.
- **Efforts to engage new donors** will be pursued, including at the country level, to expand the partnership base and mobilize resources for implementation. This will include targeted outreach to key partners, such as EU delegations, Spanish embassies, Luxembourg, China, the private sector and other key donors. This will also include reaching to partners interested, by specific areas of focus of the road maps, such as digitalization of social protection and employment services, just energy transition, care economy, and formalization, among others.
- **Country case studies** will be developed under both the Global Accelerator and the M-GA to capture results, good practices and lessons learned, also emphasizing the value proposition of the UN-World Bank collaboration. At least one global event will be convened to facilitate knowledge-sharing and peer learning, especially among countries engaged under the M-GA.

- **Partnership development:**

- **Partnerships are being developed with PDBs** to align their policy loans and investment portfolio to support implementation of the national Global Accelerator road maps at country level. Discussions are underway with Asian Development Bank (ADB), German Development Bank (KfW), French Development Agency (AFD), European Investment Bank (EIB), African Development Bank (AfDB), Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB), Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD).
- In Uzbekistan, ILO, Asian Development Bank, International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank will jointly advise on **pension system reforms**, more specifically, on the Pension Fund's fiscal sustainability; this model of collaboration could be extended in other countries.
- **A new partnership of the ILO and EU** will be launched in 2026 to support social protection extension in sub-Saharan Africa, through policy support and mainstreaming social protection in Global Gateway investments. This is built on the ongoing partnership with the Finance in Common Coalition for Social Investment, which has a workstream on harnessing the social impact of PDB investments, sponsored by the ILO and co-chaired by Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB) and the French Development Agency (AFD). The EU sees the Global Accelerator as an important country-led platform which complements the ambition of the Global Gateway of investing in quality and sustainable infrastructure as well as green transformation. By working together, the Global Accelerator and the Global Gateway will contribute to inclusive structural transformations that support formalization and the creation of decent employment with effective access to social protection. Co-implemented with AFD and the African Union Development Agency Auda-NEPAD, the new ILO-EU

partnership will prioritize strengthening national social protection systems through improved policies, governance, and public finance management, and will contribute to increasing the social protection impact of national public investments and IFI operations. It may serve as a model that can be replicated with other public development banks and public and private investors in sub-Saharan Africa and other regions.

- Potential partnerships with the **private sector** will be explored to help amplify the social impacts of investments and various government initiatives, with respect to creation of decent jobs and the extension of social protection, with digitalization, of services and vocational training, and digitization of benefits, as some key focus areas for the interventions.

Advocacy and communication

- The **WSSD2 outcome document**, that is, the Doha Political Declaration, recognizes that the Global Accelerator's approach contributes to the reduction of poverty and inequality by helping to promote full and productive employment. In 2026, the Global Accelerator will be positioned as a mechanism to provide concrete support to the implementation of the Doha Outcome Document.
- The Global Accelerator's approach directly supports FFD4 priorities to close financing gaps in essential public services, build social protection systems, create decent jobs, support formalisation, and promote inclusive economic growth. Selected as one of the initiatives of the **Sevilla Platform for Action** in 2025, it provides concrete support to pathfinder countries through the development of Global Accelerator road maps national financing strategies; assessing the adequacy, alignment and efficiency of spending related to employment policies and social protection systems; costing and fiscal space analysis to plan and increase national budgets allocated to employment and social protection; enhancing domestic revenue mobilization, through tax reforms, formalization and the extension of contributory social security; mobilizing and aligning public and private, domestic and international investments toward national employment and social protection priorities, including partnerships with development banks and private sector actors; and in-depth analysis of potential adjustments to macroeconomic policies and/or options to open additional fiscal space for investments in social protection and employment policies.
- The United Nations (2026) Report of the Secretary-General for the sixty-fourth session of the Commission for Social Development highlights the need for **coordinated, integrated and inclusive policy approaches across different sectors and levels of governance to advance social development and social justice**. The Global Accelerator is singled out in the report as a key mechanism for showcasing country experiences of inclusive and integrated governance (UN 2026 (para 68)).
- A publication prepared by the TSF and entitled **Building the Case for the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions** (Global Accelerator 2026a) will be launched in June 2026. It shows where the Global Accelerator initiative currently stands, what has already been achieved and how countries are shaping the Global Accelerator to fit their national context, to drive economic reforms and strengthen social development. It illustrates how a global initiative can be translated into various implementation pathways that are fully aligned with each country's development priorities.
- The Global Accelerator provides a valuable mechanism to test **new forms of development cooperation** — ones that deliberately link technical assistance with financial assistance in support of nationally owned social protection and jobs roadmaps. By positioning joint technical assistance as a strategic entry point for the preparation of national public investments and IFI operations, as demonstrated in countries such as Cambodia, Senegal, Tunisia, and Uzbekistan, the Global Accelerator is pioneering a model where upstream policy dialogue and capacity support directly catalyse larger financing flows. This approach offers a proof of concept for win-win partnerships between the UN system, IFIs, and partner governments — grounded in country-level evidence, aligned with national systems, and designed to mobilize both multilateral and domestic

resources at scale. This will be highlighted in several global events in 2026 and 2027 including an OECD Conference on the Future of Development Co-operation on 11-12 May 2026 in Paris, a socialprotection.org webinar on 26 May 2026, and several online events in the context of the FICS Coalition for Social Investment. A policy paper will be developed and published by the end of 2026.

Strengthening the Technical Support Facility's support-on-demand to countries

- An in-person training workshop has been developed with the International Training Centre of the ILO on the conceptual foundations of the Global Accelerator and its practical implementation for current and future pathfinder countries. It is scheduled for **9-13 February 2026** and on this basis an online toolkit will be developed later in the year and the community of practice will be launched.
- **The SMSD** will be used in Cambodia and the Philippines to convince more governments and IFIs on the returns of investments in decent jobs and universal social protection, and to assess and improve the social protection and employment outcomes of ongoing and pipeline economic investments.
- The UN country teams and national stakeholders will continue to be supported through the **TSF's Hub of Expertise, which provides Expertise on Demand**²³. The Expertise is provided across five core areas: (i) multistakeholder engagement, (ii) integrated policy approaches and delivery mechanisms, (iii) integrated financing strategies and instruments, (iv) inclusive programming and (v) partnership development.
- Countries are developing their **results monitoring frameworks to review progress made under the Global Accelerator initiative**, that are based on the global results framework. Country level results are amalgamated into a consolidated monitoring tool, which measures institutional changes, results and impacts achieved through the initiative's implementation. To document policy changes, innovative practices and the results achieved with regard to job creation, the extension of social protection and investments in Global Accelerator road maps, a global observatory and data repository are under development, which will build evidence of the impact of integrated policy approaches and financing under the Global Accelerator.
- Many pathfinder countries have identified investments in decent jobs and social protection in the **care economy as a priority**. The TSF will refine and pilot approaches that identify gaps in national care systems and support the strengthening of care and support systems, both in terms of creating decent jobs and extending social protection. This will generate useful insights, facilitate cross-country exchanges and demonstrate the benefits of making the investments required to strengthen the care economy.
- **Transformation of the agrifood sector** is a priority in at least 12 Global Accelerator pathfinder countries or M-GA countries, as highlighted in their Global Accelerator road maps and/or UN-World Bank joint programmes. These countries are seeking practical guidance and technical assistance to design and implement coherent and integrated employment and social protection interventions in the agrifood sector. The TSF, jointly with the World Bank, will strengthen its support to countries through direct technical assistance and the development and further dissemination of a practical guidance package outlining policy options and delivery mechanisms to extend social protection to agrifood workers and their families, with a focus on improving access to decent and productive jobs.
- The Global Accelerator will also increase its support for **just digital transitions** in pathfinder countries by helping create decent jobs in the digital economy, as in the Philippines and Rwanda. It will accelerate the digitalization of social protection and formalization management processes, including registration, contribution collection, and payments, while using mobile phone networks to expand coverage and improve services. It will also strengthen

²³ See the Hub of Expertise Service List here, <https://www.unglobalaccelerator.org/resource/technical-support-facility-hub-expertise-service-list>

data interoperability and digital convergence across social security systems, active labour market policies, formalization, access to health care, and other public services.

- Most pathfinder countries have finalized and endorsed their Global Accelerator road maps and are now focusing on securing sustainable financing for their implementation. This involves the **development of financing strategies** to identify funding needs and appropriate financing mechanisms. To support this process, a **guidance document** has been developed to assist countries in conceptualizing and structuring their financing strategies (Global Accelerator 2026b). It addresses key questions related to financing needs and priorities, sources of investment and the monitoring of financing gaps. These strategies aim to mobilize public budget and revenues, as well as better align public and private investments with road map priorities and improve employment and social protection outcomes, while also assessing how macroeconomic policies can be adapted to balance stability, employment and social protection objectives.
- Fragility is one of the key areas of intervention under the second M-GA funding round. The TSF has developed a concept note entitled “**Strengthening the Labour Outcomes of Social Protection Systems in Fragile and Conflict Settings**”, which sets out practical guidance on how to better integrate social protection systems with employment and labour market interventions in fragile and conflict-affected settings to protect affected populations and advance pathways to decent and productive employment. It aims to fill key gaps in coordination, sequencing, financing and institutional capacity by providing a framework and tools that can help governments and partners to move from humanitarian relief towards more robust and resilient social protection systems and improved outcomes for individuals, households and communities.
- The TSF and the World Bank will collaborate to support the strengthening of national monitoring of social protection worldwide by improving the **household survey methodology** (through the incorporation of a module on social protection) and by producing a technical note that clarifies the differences between the

metrics and statistical approaches used by the ILO and the World Bank. The module on social protection will be piloted in an M-GA country to improve the collection of data on social protection programmes – including the types and level of benefits, coverage (actual and potential) and the use of disaggregated data – in addition to the data collected through labour force surveys and household income and expenditure surveys. The aforementioned technical note will help to achieve closer methodological alignment between the two institutions.

- **Updated social protection data and statistics for the Global Accelerator pathfinder countries** are available through the ILO’s World Social Protection Data Dashboards²⁴ and have been published in the most recent *World Social Protection Report* (ILO 2024a) and its regional companion reports for Asia and the Pacific (ILO 2024b), Europe and Central Asia (ILO 2025c) and Latin America and the Caribbean (ILO 2025d). Some pathfinder countries (Cabo Verde, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Nepal) have also issued national social protection statistical bulletins, prepared through institutional dialogue or working groups. Further work on **updating the data on social protection coverage**, the level of benefits and expenditure using the ILO’s Social Security Inquiry tool is envisaged for 2026, and this will feed into the Global Accelerator monitoring and evaluation framework at the global and national levels.
- **Youth** is a key priority of the Global Accelerator. AfDB, in partnership with the ILO, has introduced the **Youth, Jobs and Skills Marker System** to integrate youth employment and skills development across its investment operations. The system is designed to incorporate youth employability and skills development components across projects in sectors such as agriculture, transport, energy, water, and education, with the aim of maximizing the impact of investments on youth job creation. Additionally, the **Major Group for Children and Youth** (UN MGCY), which promotes meaningful youth engagement within the UN system, has joined the Global Accelerator Steering Group. Its participation is expected to help ensure that young people’s perspectives and priorities are better reflected in the governance and implementation of the Global Accelerator.

24 See the landing page for the World Social Protection Data Dashboards, <https://www.social-protection.org/gimi/WSPDB.action?id=32>.

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The Global Accelerator is a UN initiative that aims to support countries in creating millions of decent jobs primarily in the green, digital, and care economies, and to extend social protection to billions of people who are currently excluded. It aims to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and increase investments to promote decent jobs, universal social protection and just transitions.

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