



JOINT SDG FUND

# Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions

2025



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Photo: UNDP Jamaica

# Overview

The Global Accelerator for Jobs and Social Protection, launched in September 2021 by the UN Secretary-General, aims to fast-track global actions for a job-rich recovery and just transitions to more sustainable and inclusive economies. This initiative seeks to extend social protection to some of the 4 billion excluded people and create decent jobs for the 200 million currently unemployed, as well as the many more who are underemployed or inactive, through investments in the green, care, and digital economies, and thereby support countries in overcoming persistent poverty and inequality.

The Joint SDG Fund (the Fund) launched in 2024 its first funding round in support of the Global Accelerator (GA) on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. By investing in joint action by the UN and partners, in particular the World Bank, and led by UN Resident Coordinators (RCs) and World Bank Country Managers and implemented by UN Country Teams (UNCTs) and World Bank Country Teams, the joint programmes developed systemic responses that simultaneously address policy, capacity, and financing needs towards transformational impact.

Allocations to joint programmes (JPs) are divided into High Impact Seed funding, and M-GA tracks<sup>1</sup> depending on their level of maturity, partnership with the World Bank, and preparedness for transformative impact.

Key Achievements:

\$27.7 M

*total portfolio*

14

*countries*

1. The Multistakeholder Engagement to implement the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions and the World Bank Social Protection and Jobs Compass (“M-GA” thereafter) is an integrated technical and financing mechanism that ensures collaboration among UN organizations.

# The initiative features three funding tracks:

## High Impact Track

\$10.8M

\$1.8M

total will fund joint programmes in advanced-stage pathfinder countries

each in Albania, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malawi, Namibia, and Uzbekistan

## Seed Funding Track

\$1.6M

\$200K

total will fund early stage joint programmes

each in Cabo Verde, Colombia, Nepal, Paraguay, Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, and Viet Nam

## M-GA Track

\$2.25M

\$250K

total in collaboration with the World Bank with funds matched to reach a total of \$5.5M jointly

open to both advanced- and early-stage pathfinder countries. After a competitive call, nine countries will be funded in the first funding round: Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Colombia, Indonesia, Nepal, Paraguay, Philippines, Uzbekistan, and Viet Nam

# Global Reach



## LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

*Colombia*  
*Paraguay*

## EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA

*Albania*  
*Uzbekistan*

## SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

*Cabo Verde*  
*Malawi*  
*Namibia*  
*Rwanda*  
*Senegal*

## ASIA-PACIFIC

*Cambodia*  
*Indonesia*  
*Nepal*  
*Philippines*  
*Viet Nam*

# \$27.7 M

*total budget*

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# \$14.7M

*supported by the Fund*

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# \$13.1M

*co-funding*

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# 23

*joint programmes the Fund has designed and approved*

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# 9

*joint programmes in coordination with the World Bank country offices*

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# 6

*UN entities*

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Three complementary and mutually supportive areas of work are envisaged under the GA:

1) The in-country development of integrated and coordinated employment and social protection policies and strategies that facilitate just transitions.

2) The establishment of national financing frameworks and the mobilization of public and private domestic and international resources to invest in universal social protection and inclusive, environment- and gender-responsive employment interventions with a view to creating quality jobs.

3) The improvement of multilateral cooperation on jobs and social protection for just transitions, including with international financial institutions. Additionally, the fosters and supports coordinate concerted action among international partners to strengthen national ownership and a systems approach to universal social protection and inclusive, environment- and gender-responsive employment creation to facilitate just transitions.

As proposed by the Fund's strategy supporting the SDG transitions, the investment into jobs and social protection is organised through funding rounds. The first funding round was launched in March 2024. Since then, the Fund has designed and approved 23 joint programmes to be led by RCs and implemented by 6 UN entities, including 9 joint programmes in coordination with the World Bank country offices. The investment is distributed primarily in Africa (5 countries) and Latin America and the Caribbean (5 countries), followed by Asia and the Pacific (2 countries) and Europe and Central Asia (2 countries). The total budget amounts to \$27.7 million, with \$14.7 million supported by the Fund, \$2.25 million by the World Bank, and \$10.8 million in co-funding.

The anticipated impact will produce policy and regulatory shifts and leverage additional financing, delivering concrete benefits at scale, especially for people left behind.

# \$80M

at least, in additional resources mobilised for scale up of the impact

# 20

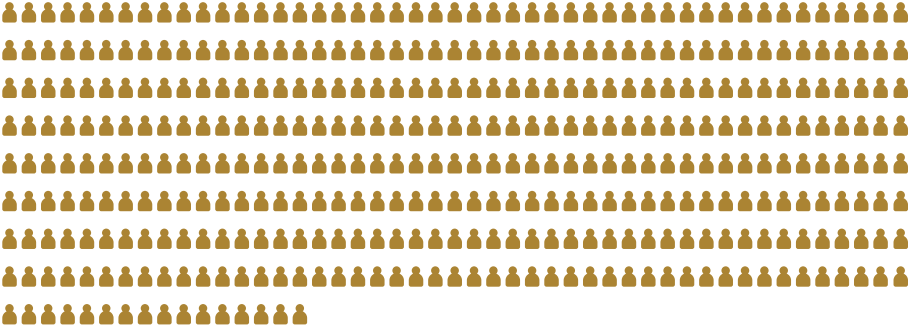
over 20 social protection and decent employment policies introduced or revised to extend services and protection to groups left behind

# 45

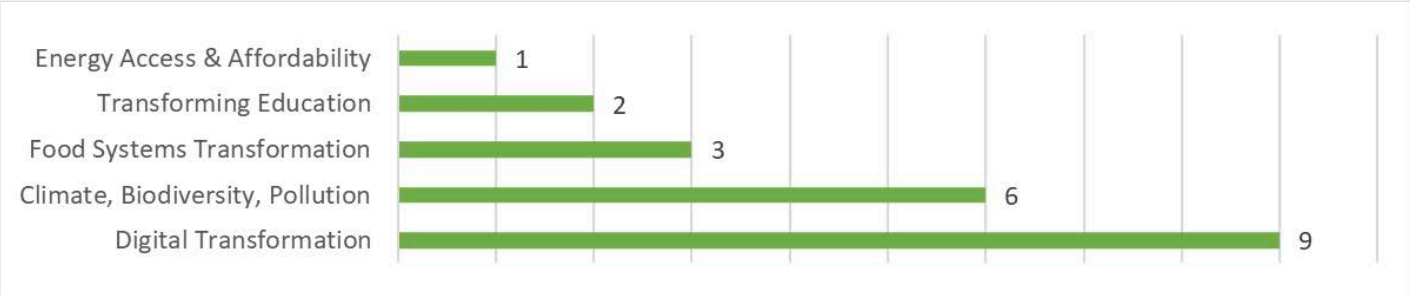
over 45 partners, including government agencies, civil society organisations, and private sector empowered with knowledge and capacities to extend social protection and apply decent employment policies

# 8.5M

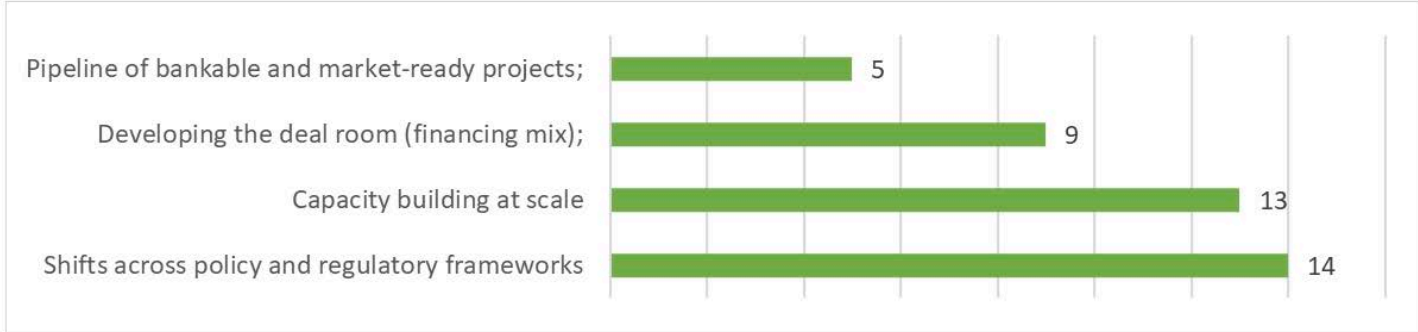
at least, people that will benefit from the introduction, extension, and strengthening of social protection programmes, decent employment policies and training programmes, and job creation in areas of agriculture, promotion of entrepreneurship and health



In addition to the focus on jobs and social protection, each JP supports at least one other SDG transition to ensure holistic systems change. Digital Transformation, Climate, Biodiversity and Pollution, and Food Systems Transformation are also frequently represented in the JPs, as per the table below.



Amongst the enabling actions, the JPs prioritise shifts across policy and regulatory frameworks, and capacity building at scale, with over half also incorporating the development of a ‘deal room’ (i.e. build partnerships with relevant actors to unlock the necessary financing from all sources (traditional donors, development banks, capital markets, philanthropic foundations, and remittances), and thereby help develop the ‘deal room’ – a financing mix with innovative instruments – for each of the transitions.).



# The M-GA: UN-World Bank Partnership to Create Jobs and Extend Social Protection

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

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

Since its launch in February 2024, the M-GA has completed its first call for proposals. The 11 submitted country proposals underwent technical review with the top 9 proposals announced in October 2024. Successful proposals have been awarded US\$500,000 each over a 2-year period. A second round is expected to launch in early 2025.



Photo: UNDP Colombia

# Summaries of the High Impact Track joint programmes

## Albania: Lifelong Empowerment and Protection in Albania – LEAP

**Total: \$2,152,537**

*JSDGF Funding: \$1,799,172*

*UN Agencies:*  
**UNDP, UNICEF, ILO**

The Lifelong Empowerment and Protection – LEAP - joint programme aims to advance an inclusive and responsive social protection system in Albania by integrating social protection, employment, and care services. This initiative strategically aligns with SDGs 1 (No Poverty), 3 (Good Health and Well-being), 4 (Quality Education), 5 (Gender Equality), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions). The programme will extend social protection coverage through the Universal Child Benefit (UCB), which will provide financial support to all children, and the Long-Term Care (LTC) policy, which will offer comprehensive care services for the elderly and individuals with disabilities. Specific examples of Active Labour Market Programmes (ALMPs) to be introduced include vocational training for youth, employment services for women in rural areas, and support for seasonal workers to access social security benefits.

## Cambodia: Decent Jobs and Social Protection Expansion for Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth in Cambodia

**Total: \$4,080,000**

*JSDGF Funding: \$1,800,000*

*UN Agencies:*  
**UNDP, UNICEF, ILO**

This joint programme aims to support the implementation of Cambodia's Roadmap for Jobs and Social Protection Acceleration. It focuses on developing national capacity for strategic foresight, building labour market flexibility, business resilience, and competitiveness, and leveraging gender-responsive and inclusive partnerships. The programme will strengthen the social protection system to address constraints in employment and self-employment, ensuring the inclusion of those left behind.

## Indonesia - Modern and Adaptive Social Protection and Skills Development Systems for Transforming Indonesia

**Total: \$2,515,000**

*JSDGF Funding: \$1,800,000*

*UN Agencies:*  
**UNDP, UNICEF, ILO**

The joint programme will enhance social protection coverage through policies such as conditional cash transfers (PHK) and the Sembako food voucher programme, benefiting 40 million and 18 million people respectively. It will also improve the interoperability of social protection systems, revise policies with stakeholders, and build institutional capacity. Specific examples of Active Labour Market Programmes (ALMPs) to be introduced include sectoral skills councils, upgraded apprenticeship programs, and innovative financing schemes like skills development funds.

## Malawi: Accelerating Employment Creation and Social Protection Through Integrated Agriculture Value Chain Development

**Total: \$4,465,912**

*JSDGF Funding: \$1,800,000*

*UN Agencies:*  
**ILO, UN Women, FAO**

Aligned with Malawi Vision 2063, the Joint Programme seeks to transform the agricultural sector, which is the main employer, into a driver of economic growth and social protection. By leveraging integrated policy solutions, capacity building, and financing partnerships, the programme will support sustainable livelihoods and resilience for approximately 20,400 direct beneficiaries and 12 million indirect beneficiaries, including smallholder families and vulnerable groups.

## Namibia: Agri-Systems Transformation Through Biomass Processing for Decent Job Creation and the Extension of Social Protection in Namibia

**Total: \$3,762,000**

*JSDGF Funding: \$1,800,000*

*UN Agencies:*  
**ILO, FAO, UNDP**

The joint programme targets vulnerable and marginalized individuals and groups, mainstreaming a human rights-based approach and focusing on the biomass value chain in the Otjozondjupa region. An estimated 5,000 people are expected to benefit directly from the programme, which adopts a two-tiered approach: strengthening institutional capacities at the national level and targeting interventions at the community and subnational levels.

## Uzbekistan: Accelerating Decent Jobs and Social Protection for a Just Transition to Formality in Uzbekistan

**Total: \$2,263,380**

*JSDGF Funding: \$1,800,000*

*UN Agencies: ILO, UNDP,  
UNICEF, UN WOMEN*

It will strengthen business ecosystems, leverage public policies to formalise informal workers, and extend social insurance schemes to the missing middle. Specifically, the programme will focus on formalising informal enterprises and jobs in the care and construction sectors, expanding social insurance coverage to informal and migrant workers, and developing integrated approaches between employment and social protection.



Photo: UNDP Indonesia

# Seed Funding Track joint programmes

<b>Cabo Verde</b>	The programme will develop a roadmap for social protection expansion, identify policy priorities, create municipal plans, and strengthen service delivery through a single social registry and collaborative stakeholder approach.
<b>Colombia</b>	The programme will enhance governance and policy coherence to improve social protection and decent employment for vulnerable populations, addressing poverty and inequality effectively.
<b>Nepal</b>	The programme aims to promote inclusive, coordinated policies and investments for decent job creation and social protection in just transitions.
<b>Paraguay</b>	The programme will strengthen government capacity to promote green jobs and formal work, focusing on women and vulnerable sectors, while supporting the update of the Integrated Formalisation Strategy.
<b>Philippines</b>	The programme will support adopting and implementing the Global Accelerator Roadmap by 2025 through dialogues and capacity-building for stakeholders and institutions.
<b>Rwanda</b>	The programme will support inclusive policies integrating job creation and social protection, focusing on gender equality and vulnerable groups, while generating evidence through studies and workshops.
<b>Senegal</b>	The programme will support the Global Accelerator's roadmap with stakeholder capacity-building and gender-responsive advice to advance social protection and inclusive, sustainable employment.
<b>Viet Nam</b>	The programme will generate knowledge and provide technical assistance to support gender-responsive policies, capacity-building, and the operationalization of the Global Accelerator for decent jobs and social protection in Viet Nam through national dialogues, partnerships, and a comprehensive roadmap.

# M-GA joint programmes

<b>Cabo Verde</b>	The joint programme contributes to the eradication of extreme poverty through skills development, especially for women and youth not in education, employment, or training, enhanced productivity of micro-businesses and the self-employed in rural areas, and support for the formalisation of informal micro-businesses.
<b>Cambodia</b>	This joint programme builds human capital of poor and vulnerable persons through an evaluation of social assistance delivery, with the aim of reform and improvement, ensuring that TVET responds to employer needs, and evaluating TVET delivery on cross-cutting skills to complement digital skills initiatives.
<b>Colombia</b>	The joint programme aims to increase social protection coverage, adequacy, and systems adaptability, particularly for youth and women, through an analysis of pathways towards social protection extension and their respective impacts on poverty and inequality reduction, and two municipal pilot programmes to integrate all social protection programmes.
<b>Indonesia</b>	This joint programme contributes to increasing inclusion and reducing the vulnerability of persons with disabilities through a cost-of-care assessment of raising a child with a disability, capacity building on employment services provision for working-age persons with disabilities, a training delivery assessment for persons with disabilities, an institutional and process review of social protection programmes for persons with disabilities, and an analysis of needs for elderly persons with disabilities.
<b>Nepal</b>	The joint programme enhances productivity and access to social protection for women, youth, and informal workers through improved coordination and capacity development on integrated policies for key stakeholders, evidence generation on productivity, working conditions, MSMEs, skills development, and climate change impact on employment, and through strengthening strategic programmes for job creation, productivity growth, and social protection extension.
<b>Paraguay</b>	This joint programme contributes to a redesign and implementation of the social protection system and active labour market policies through improving labour market access for youth and women, enhancing the government's capacity to identify skills gaps, anticipate impacts of technological and climate change, designing a lifelong learning strategy, and engaging in national dialogue on pension system reform.
<b>Philippines</b>	The joint programme contributes to reforms of the employment and social protection systems, with a focus on the construction and transportation sectors, through identifying and evaluating pathways for increased government financing for decent jobs and social protection, including increased social climate finance, developing sector-specific skills development programmes, reviewing the unemployment protection system, analysing options for social protection extension to gig and platform workers, and strengthening social protection monitoring and evaluation.
<b>Uzbekistan</b>	This joint programme contributes to the extension of social protection, particularly social insurance, through the development and implementation of the Social Insurance Law, analysis of the design and financing of maternity, sickness, and unemployment benefits, and building the capacity of the national social protection agency to assess social insurance design options.
<b>Viet Nam</b>	The joint programme improves the gender-responsiveness of labour market measures for green transition and of social protection systems through assessing occupations and skills needs for renewable energy, developing a gender-responsive career development tool on transitions to green jobs, assessing impacts of key policy reforms on coverage expansion and contribution behaviour, analysing policy options to support workers and discourage lump-sum social insurance withdrawals, and assessing how to strengthen the social protection system to integrate climate considerations.



JOINT SDG FUND

All joint programmes of the Joint SDG Fund are led by UN Resident Coordinators and implemented by the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations development system. With sincere appreciation for the contributions from the European Union and Governments of Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Monaco, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and our private sector funding partners, for a transformative movement towards achieving the SDGs by 2030.