



GLOBAL
ACCELERATOR

Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions

First Progress Report
January 2023 – April 2024





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Collectively referred to as the Technical Support Facility (TSF) Coordination Team of the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions (GA).



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Introduction

The Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions, launched in September 2021 by the UN Secretary-General, signals the UN system's collective response to addressing the multiple challenges that threaten to erase development progress.

The initiative aims to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by overcoming persistent challenges of poverty, income inequality, horizontal inequality (people's life chances that are affected by gender, age, ethnicity, and other characteristics), informal employment (58% of total employment),¹ the global jobs gap² (453 million in 2023) and social protection coverage and adequacy gaps (4 billion people excluded from social protection). It will do so, by increasing domestic and international public and private investments for social protection and employment outcomes (through the integrated financing pillar of the Global Accelerator) and supporting the design, implementation and expansion of national social protection and employment policies and institutions.

It also aims at facilitating just life and work transitions for people in the context of new and emerging challenges, such as climate change (e.g., climate change adaptation and mitigation, just energy transition), demographic changes (e.g., development of decent jobs in the care economy, access to decent jobs opportunities for youth), and structural transformations of the economy (e.g., agri-food systems transformation, digitalisation, etc.).

To overcome persistent and emerging challenges, the Global Accelerator promotes the development and implementation of integrated policy approaches combining access to social protection with employment and sectoral policies. Each integrated policy package needs to be tailored to the needs of each country's priorities, circumstances, and intended effect.

Further, the Global Accelerator creates connections between policies and financing by ensuring that Ministries of Economy and Finance conduct macro-economic policies that are pro-employment and conducive to the extension of social protection. Global Accelerator roadmaps provide a strategic framework under which public development banks can improve their contribution to the SDGs (for instance through concessional financing), where the private sector can increase the social impact of their investments and where IFIs can protect and, when possible, extend public social spending. It also supports countries with serious fiscal constraints by mobilizing more international financial sources (ODA, climate funds, debt swaps) for social protection and other social policies.

Lastly, the Accelerator fosters multilateral cooperation within the government (through inter-ministerial platforms and synergies), with social partners and civil society contributing to a renewed social contract, with donors and development banks, the UN and other stakeholders, to ensure coordinated and coherent political, technical and financial support, and to advocate for social development in global fora.

A vision of the UN Common Agenda

The Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions contributes to the implementation of Our Common Agenda, which calls for inclusive, networked, and effective multilateralism to better respond to and deliver peace and prosperity for the people and the planet and to get the world back on track by turbocharging action on the Sustainable Development Goals, adopted in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly.

1 ILO. *Women and men in the informal economy: A statistical update* (2023).

2 For a statistical definition of the Global Jobs Gap, see. https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/wcmsp5/groups/public/@dgre-ports/@stat/documents/publication/wcms_912319.pdf

Only 12 percent of SDG targets are on track for 2030, prompting the UN to call for a “rescue plan” to identify six key transitions to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs. The Global Accelerator contributes to the social protection and decent jobs transition which is one of these six major transitions that will drive progress across the SDGs³. It also serves as a crucial link to the five other transitions.

The Global Accelerator and the Sustainable Development Goals

Social protection and employment measures are critical for transformative changes. The SDGs are central to the overall Global Accelerator’s mission. It provides a direct way for countries and partners to accelerate progress toward achieving many interlinked SDGs:



SDG 1: End Poverty in all its forms

Achieving universal social protection to eradicate and prevent poverty.

SDG 3: Health and Well-Being

Treatment and prevention of malnutrition for healthy productive lives. Social health coverage expanded, including access to services and essential medicines.

SDG 4: Inclusive quality education

Training provided for youth and adults on technical and vocational skills.

SDG 5: Gender Equality

Policies and legislation championed to support gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

Policies to promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.

SDG 10: Reduced inequalities

Policies to expand social programmes that enable greater equality.

SDG 17: Global Partnerships

Multi-stakeholder partnerships for sustainable development to enable shared knowledge, expertise, technology, and financial resources, scaling up what works with great coordination and collaboration.

The Global Accelerator also contributes indirectly to SDG 2 (end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture), SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy), SDG 13 (climate action) and SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions). The initiative unlocks multiplier effects that accelerate the achievement of the SDGs, generating a virtuous cycle of development and ensuring that the necessary transitions are socially and economically acceptable for populations.



The Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection is a critical tool to help provide immediate support to people in need and advance action towards transformative change for all.”

António Guterres, UN Secretary-General. Partnering for Action: Implementation of the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions in the Complex Setting of Overlapping Crises, New York. 23 September 2022.

³ These include: (1) food systems; (2) energy access and affordability; (3) digital connectivity; (4) education; (5) jobs and social protection; and (6) climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.



The challenge and the ambition

Accelerating progress and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals is not possible without addressing the global jobs and social protection gaps.

In 2023

453 MILLION
people



were unable to find a job

4 BILLION
people



still lack any form of social protection

The ambition of the Global Accelerator is to bridge these gaps and facilitate just ecological, demographic, and economic transitions to a more resilient, sustainable, and inclusive world that ensures that more people and their families will not be left behind.

Bridging the global jobs gap⁴ and extending social protection to the 4 billion people who are currently uncovered is an essential

investment needed to significantly improve the lives of people, particularly the most vulnerable who are also negatively impacted by biodiversity loss, climate change, and pollution that exacerbates income, health, gender, and employment injustices. Poor and marginalized people contribute the least to climate change but are most likely to be harmed by it.



Over half of the world's population has **no access to social protection.**

Women are overrepresented among those who remain excluded.



Extreme poverty

Around **670 million people** were estimated to be living in extreme poverty in 2022



Informality

Around **2 billion people** were in informal employment in 2023. Around 58% of the global employment will remain informally employed in 2024



Youth

269 million young people were not in employment, education or training in 2023



Global income

The **share of global income** earned by workers reduced from 54% to 52% between 2004 and 2021

Sources: ILO, *Women and men in the informal economy: A statistical update*, 2023; UN, The report of the Secretary-General, Implementation of the third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027), 2023; ILO, *World Employment and Social Outlook*, Trends 2024.

⁴ For a statistical definition of the Global Jobs Gap, see. https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/wcmsp5/groups/public/@dgreports/@stat/documents/publication/wcms_912319.pdf

Access to decent work and to social protection are human rights and essential engines of sustainable development.

Adequate social protection systems and conducive policy configurations for job-rich growth are essential for over half of the world's population to escape economic insecurity and low-income traps, and instead productively contribute to development.

It is about policy design and implementation. Skills and employability policies are often inadequate for addressing rapidly changing demographic trends and increasing and changing skills requirements. Economic policies – sectoral, fiscal, monetary and financial – are not doing enough for their most valuable asset, their people, to productively contribute to growth and well-being. Globally, investment in social protection remains insufficient to guarantee social protection floors and provide progressively higher levels of protection to as many people as possible.

It is also about investing more and better in these policies. The macro-fiscal configuration can be improved in many contexts to yield more space for critical investments in social protection, jobs,

and just transitions. More bang for the buck can also be achieved, with existing resources going further in their impact on jobs, social protection and just transitions, by better understanding the expected impacts of social protection or sectoral investments. Public and private domestic and international financial resources and investments can and should be mobilised more to contribute to decent work, universal social protection and just transitions, including through catalytic ODA and national financing arrangements.

It is finally about combining investments in social policies for increased impact.

The combined effects of complementary investments in social protection, jobs and just transitions exceed the sum of their individual effects. Combined investments in social policies create synergies that impact positively growth, labour productivity, jobs, and sustainable businesses. Investments in the creation of decent jobs and the formalization of businesses contribute to extending social protection. In both cases, social investment translates into an economic, and no doubt also a fiscal, return on investments.

Box: Results of a Study on Multiplier Effect of Social Protection Expenditures

The cumulative effects of increases in social benefits expenditures on the level of economic activity as measured by real GDP are not only substantial in the short run but also in the medium-run for most countries. The research was conducted in seven countries. After two years, the accumulated multiplier effect in Mexico reaches 7.2, which is the highest amongst the seven countries analysed, followed by Ecuador with a cumulative multiplier effect of 3.3 after two and a half years. Also in Cape Verde, Malawi, Nepal, Pakistan, Paraguay, and Vietnam, the accumulated multiplier effect after two or three years is positive, significant and has a sizable magnitude (between 1.5 and 2.66). Additionally, a multi-country study was carried out including European and other developing countries with good data. The median cumulative multiplier for the 42 countries amounted to 1.52 over 10 quarters. This means that **for each extra dollar invested in social protection, the economic output raises by 1.52 dollars after 2.5 years**, underlining the important economic returns of social protection spending.



The strategy

The Implementation Strategy of Global Accelerator was developed by a UN interagency task team and endorsed in July 2022. It builds on a series of thematic roadmaps which were aligned with the priorities outlined in “Our Common Agenda.”

The overall goal of the Global Accelerator is to support countries to overcome decent work and social protection deficits:

1. by supporting the formalization of enterprises and employment through integrated policy approaches linking social protection, skills and active labour market policies (ALMPs), among other policies, and
2. by increasing domestic and international public and private investments in social protection and employment.

This does not only support the creation of jobs and the extension of social protection, but also ensures that current and planned economic, demographic, and ecological transformations also benefit people.

To support these two pillars of action, a multilateral cooperation pillar supports governments, social partners, UN agencies, international financial institutions (IFIs) and donors to join forces at country, regional and global levels.

At the core of the Global Accelerator is the promotion of a more inclusive model of development, founded on the idea that economic development cannot be sustained without social progress.

Pillar 1: Integrated employment and social protection policies

Accelerating virtuous cycles of economic and social transformation through coherent employment and social protection policies which facilitate just transitions. The Global Accelerator supports policy change and integration across labour market, social protection, skills, entrepreneurship, and macro-sectoral frameworks as part of coherent agendas for acceleration.

Pillar 2: Integrated financing: National and international, public and private resources

Mobilizing and making better use of domestic and international, public and private resources to enable the realization of acceleration agendas. The initiative helps in identifying fiscal space and enabling fiscal, monetary and financial policies, and mobilizing and integrating international ODA as well as development and green finance.

The Global Accelerator’s financing strategy encompasses concrete action in domestic resource mobilization and crowding in of international financing, providing an operational vehicle to help bridge the SDG financing gap. It is about facilitating more and better investments in tandem with adequate policy measures, which bring higher returns and socio-economic dividends. The Accelerator can help harness financing flows to make them more effective so that they enhance fiscal space.

Concretely, the Global Accelerator contributes to the implementation of the SDG stimulus actions no. 2 on improved leveraging of lending from MDBs and PDBs to support the SDGs, and no. 5 on aligning financial flows with the SDGs and the Paris Agreement (including through INFFs). Through leveraging engagement and partnerships with Ministries of Finance and financial institutions, the Accelerator provides a concrete framework that can support these two priorities.

Pillar 3: Enhanced multilateral cooperation

Mobilizing the cooperation between policymakers, social partners, civil society, the international development community - UN agencies, multilateral development banks and key development partners. The Global Accelerator helps in catalysing international commitments for jobs and social protection for just transitions including technical and financial support.

Measuring results and impact

In 2023, a Theory of Change (ToC) and initial results framework with associated indicators were developed in line with the [Implementation strategy](#) and discussed during a [workshop with development partners on 23 March 2023](#). This generic results framework was further refined based on the lessons generated from the initial roadmaps. The ToC outlines the rationale behind an accelerator (the why), the roles of different actors (the who), the process through which change happens (the how), and the results to be achieved (the what), together with their associated indicators. It articulates the drivers of changes, target groups, various assumptions and intervention pathways under the pillars of the Accelerator. It will be further discussed with stakeholders for adaptation at the country level and will therefore constitute a key instrument for reporting results at the global level.

The Accelerator's expected results span across three primary categories:

- policy and institutional changes
- improved financing
- impacts on people

The first can be broadly characterised as conventional output-level results, i.e. direct outputs of the Accelerator's roadmap process. These outputs are instrumental in creating the necessary conditions for 'impacts on people' the third category of expected results, which roughly translates to envisioned outcomes of the Accelerator. These three outcome statements, which are expected to be realized in each Pathfinder country, reflect the tangible improvements to decent employment opportunities and social protection coverage and access that the initiative aims to achieve.

The results framework will be a crucial instrument for improved policy design and financing at country level, and for structuring the demand for global technical and financial support. In particular, it will be an important tool to measure the financing gaps and the progressive increase of available fiscal space for decent employment, social protection and just transitions, based on national budget allocations, private sector investments, international ODA and the

resources generated from taxes and social security contributions as public institutions improve their governance and the economy formalizes.

Given the innovative nature of the Global Accelerator, which promotes an integrated policy approach on decent jobs and social protection for just transitions with effective financing strategies, the results framework will be critical to build the proof of concept and generate evidence. It will feed into the knowledge management system of the Accelerator.

Governance structure

Steering Group

The Global Accelerator Steering Group is a body of high-level support of the initiative composed of pathfinder country governments, social partners, public development banks, donors, the United Nations, and civil society. It provides strategic guidance to make the Accelerator a success in delivering at country level, and using the evidence of this, to impact global debates for accelerated progress towards social justice for all. [The Global Accelerator Steering Group was established on 20 February 2024.](#)



It's up to all of us members of the Steering Group to guide the Global Accelerator so that it can provide results, impact, and evidence. We need concrete examples that can inspire others, we need evidence that we can communicate globally in high-level meetings. Let us work together in this group to make the Global Accelerator a success in delivering at country level and using the evidence to impact global debates to accelerate the progress towards social justice."

Mia Seppo, ILO Assistant Director-General. First Steering Group meeting, 20 February 2024.

National Steering Committees

The entire process at national level is overseen by National Steering Committees, which draw on existing coordination structures wherever possible. National Steering Committees are chaired by the lead government ministry or institution, which should have strong convening power; they are composed of participating ministries, social partners, civil society, and supported by UN Resident Coordinators and participating UN agencies, development banks, donors, and other national stakeholders.

Technical Support Facility

The Technical Support Facility (TSF) is responsible for supporting the implementation of the Global Accelerator and is comprised of a **Coordination Team** that oversees the management of all TSF activities; a **Hub of Expertise** at global and regional levels, and a **portfolio of national development cooperation activities**, including UN Joint Programmes, in pathfinder countries. TSF activities include strategic planning, tools development, knowledge management, technical support to countries, organisation of meetings, resource mobilization, communication, results and impact measurement and evidence-based advocacy, among others.

The UN agencies that are part of the TSF coordination team are:



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Collaborating with the World Bank: The M-GA

The Multistakeholder Engagement to implement the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions and the World Bank Social Protection and Jobs Compass ("M-GA") is an integrated technical and financing mechanism that ensures collaboration among UN organizations, and the World Bank to advance the joint goals of the GA and the World Bank's Social Protection and Jobs Compass.

The M-GA has a comparable but separate governance structure from the Global Accelerator comprised of the M-GA Coordination Council with support from the M-GA Management Team. The **M-GA Coordination Council** is a body of high-level support, composed of pathfinder country governments, social partners, the World Bank and other public development banks, donors, the United Nations, and civil society. It provides strategic guidance for all engagements on the M-GA. The **M-GA Management Team** is comprised of the World Bank and the Technical Support Facility; it coordinates the implementation of the M-GA, provides on-demand technical assistance to World Bank and UN teams in countries, organizes calls for proposals supporting M-GA implementation in countries, supports tools development and research, and builds and disseminates knowledge.



Results achieved in 2023

Launched in September 2021, the Global Accelerator has since gathered significant momentum and global interest. There is strong engagement of governments, social partners, and civil society organizations to join the initiative and be part of the process. Moreover, development partners and international financial institutions are committing to the Accelerator making the ambition of the initiative a reality.

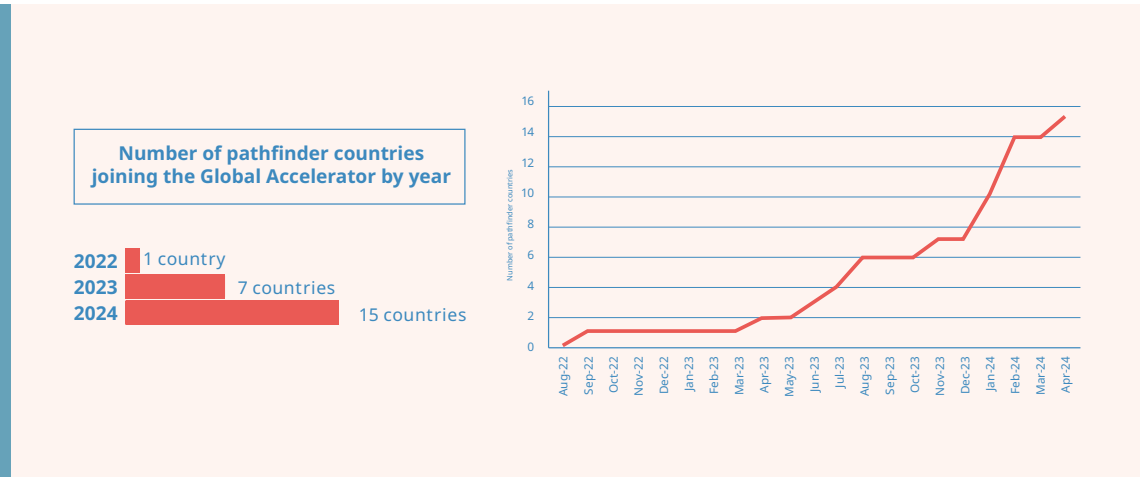
High country engagement and advanced roadmap development



By 30th of April 2024, fifteen countries have officially confirmed the high-level commitment to join the Global Accelerator and becoming pathfinder countries of the initiative: Albania, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Indonesia, Malawi, Namibia, Nepal, Paraguay, Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam.

The pathfinder countries are in the process of developing their national roadmaps for implementation. Six countries - Albania, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malawi, Namibia, and Uzbekistan - have completed (or nearly completed) their roadmaps. In most countries, the process is co-led by Ministries with strong convening power, such as the

Ministry of Economy and Finance, and other ministries such as Labour, Planning, Social Affairs, among others. This process demonstrates the commitment to inter-ministerial coordination in support of integrated programmes, financing, and delivery. The process involves the social partners (workers' and employers' organizations), civil society organizations, development partners, and financing institutions (IFIs and public development banks). UNCTs, led by UNRCs, together with the Technical Support Facility Coordination Team have been supporting countries in the preparation of these national roadmaps, which has facilitated and accelerated other countries' interest to join the initiative.



Besides the confirmed pathfinders, other countries were in the beginning of 2024 at initial stages of engagement, holding multistakeholder discussions in view of officially joining the initiative and confirm pathfinder status. These countries are Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Morocco, Pakistan, Panama and Tunisia.

Effective continued partnership for action and advocacy

Multilateral cooperation and coherence are the trademarks of the Global Accelerator. The initiative is building an effective and coordinated multi-stakeholder approach that results in resource mobilization and strong political engagement under a shared vision to strengthen social protection systems and employment opportunities for all.

During its first year of implementation in 2022, the Global Accelerator was highlighted as a key initiative in the G7 and G20 Employment and Development Ministers' Communiqués, the [G7 Leaders Communiqué](#), as well as in the [Social Investment Agenda Communiqué](#) which was mentioned in the [Final Communiqué](#) of the Finance in Common Summit (FICS) in 2022.

The initiative continued in 2023 to build on an effective and coordinated multi-stakeholder approach that effectively resulted in resource mobilization and strong political engagement under a shared vision to strengthen social protection systems and employment opportunities for all.

In 2023, the Accelerator was mentioned in the 2023 G20 Leaders communiqué, and in the 2023 [Forum on Financing for Development \(FFD\) outcome document](#).

The Council of the European Union in its [conclusions on a triple transition](#) on 21 November 2023 called on the EC and EU Member States to make full and effective use of all the instruments available to promote just transitions, including the UN Global Accelerator and the ILO Guidelines for a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all, following the Team Europe approach.

The Global Accelerator has been promoted as one of the main pillars of the [Global Coalition for Social Justice](#) aiming to

strengthen global solidarity, policy coherence and concerted action, leveraging the momentum created by the Global Accelerator.



Increased policy influence achieved through global advocacy

Following the 2022 [UNGA High-Level Event](#) chaired by the UN Secretary-General, the Global Accelerator was the focus of high-level discussions at side events during the World Bank Spring meetings (led by the government of Germany) and the [ECOSOC Financing for Development Forum](#) (led by ILO, UNDP, and UNICEF). These events resulted in concrete commitments related to enhanced collaboration with the World Bank, the development of national roadmaps in pathfinder countries and potential funding for the UN Joint SDG Fund Window on Decent Jobs and Universal Social Protection.

At the [World of Work Summit Panel on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions](#) which took place on 15 June 2023, the importance of coordinated efforts and collaboration among governments, international organizations, employers, workers, and other stakeholders to achieve social justice, just transitions, and inclusive growth was the common highlight emphasized by all the stakeholders.

The Global Accelerator has been selected as one of the 12 [High-Impact Initiatives \(HII\)](#) to achieve the SDGs and was presented at the **SDG Acceleration Day** in New York on 17 September 2023 in a [dedicated HII session](#) in the margins of the SDG Summit.

The initiative was also present during the [Finance in Common Summit](#) in Cartagena, Colombia, with the event: [“Promoting Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions – How to build cooperation with PDBs in the context of the Global Accelerator?”](#). As a result of the event and bilateral meetings, the FICS Coalition for social investment launched on 20 March 2024 a working group on [Harnessing the Social Impact of PDBs financing for just transitions](#) to support the involvement of participating public development banks in financing national Global Accelerator roadmaps, and to develop indicators for assessment and co-create evidence through research and analysis.

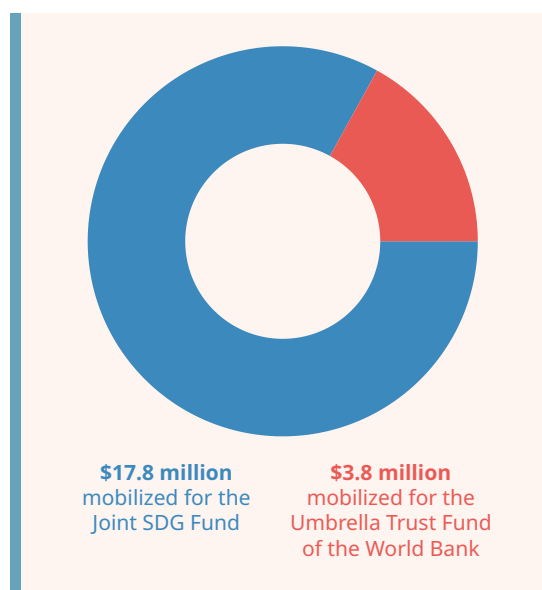
At the 28th session of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28), the Global Accelerator was presented in the Just Transition Pavilion during a panel discussion that focused on the contribution that the Global Accelerator can make to support people, workers, and enterprises to ensure an environmental transition that is just and inclusive for all: [Putting people at the center of climate action](#).

Resource mobilization for technical assistance to countries

In 2023 and early 2024, resources for the Global Accelerator were mobilized and key funding instruments were designed and approved to enable the support to the implementation of pathfinder countries' national roadmaps, including through mechanisms fostering collaboration with the World Bank at country level.

The **Joint SDG Fund Operational Steering Committee** [approved a Funding Round on Decent Jobs and Universal Social Protection](#) on 27 February 2024 with an initial funding envelope of US\$ 17.8 million, [pledged by the governments of Belgium, Germany, and Spain](#) during the SDG Summit 2023. This funding round included three tracks and a financial allocation to the UN TSF:

- A High Impact Track (HIT) of US\$ 10.8 million to support the implementation of national Global Accelerator roadmaps in



six (6) advanced-stage countries (Albania, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malawi, Namibia, and Uzbekistan);

- A Seed Funding Track of US\$ 1.6 million to support the design of national Global Accelerator roadmaps in eight (8) early-stage pathfinder countries (Cabo Verde, Colombia, Nepal, Paraguay, Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Viet Nam);
- A M-GA⁵ Track of US\$ 2.25 million to enhance the collaboration between the UN and the World Bank on the design and implementation of the Global Accelerator and the World Bank's Social Protection and Jobs Compass. The M-GA Track uses US\$ 2.25 million from the Joint SDG Fund Funding Round and an additional US\$ 2.25 million from the World Bank's Rapid Social Response Adaptive and Dynamic Social Protection Umbrella Trust Fund (RSR-ADSP). In this first funding round, all 14 pathfinder countries from the High Impact Track and the Seed Funding Track are eligible to apply for funding under the M-GA track.
- An allocation of US\$ 3.2 million to the UN TSF for its support to the implementation of the Global Accelerator and M-GA. An allocation of US\$ 1.6 million was given to the World Bank for its support to the M-GA.

5 Multistakeholder Engagement to Implement the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions and World Bank Social Protection and Jobs Compass.

The countries that join after the launch of the first funding round will be eligible to participate in the next funding opportunities.

Other **donors** are supporting the **Global Accelerator** with direct funding to UN agencies. The **government of the Republic of Korea** is funding a project of US\$ 530,000 to support the ILO in the establishment of the Global Accelerator Technical Support Facility. Likewise, the **government of France** contributed Euros 300,000 to the Accelerator through the ILO.

Also, financial support was also successfully secured at country level. For instance, Portugal committed to support Cabo Verde, and Luxemburg is willing to support the UNCT in Senegal on the Jobs and social protection transition. The 2030 target is to mobilize US\$ 600 million for UN's technical support to the Global Accelerator. The commitment and support from development partners make the mission of the Global Accelerator a reality.



Effective strategic guidance provided by the Technical Support Facility

In 2023 and early 2024, the UN TSF developed guidance documents to support UNCTs that were effectively used by country teams to engage with their respective governments and other partners at national level. These included:

- **Country engagement guidelines:** Provides key steps, templates and guidance for the inception phase of the Global Accelerator.
- **Global Accelerator roadmap development guidance and template:** Provides

guidance on the analytical framework, structure and content of the GA road-maps.

- **Terms of References for lead agencies:** Clarifies roles and responsibilities of lead agencies vis a vis Resident Coordinator Office (RCO) and national stakeholders.
- **Global Accelerator Theory of Change and Results framework:** Provides the overall theoretical underpinning of the GA, clarifies how the change happens, and identifies key indicators for monitoring and reporting on results. The Results Framework will be translated into a Results Measurement Tool linked to UN INFO for the UN to be able to monitor and consolidate results and impacts (policy changes, financing and investments, impact on job and social protection expansion as well as formalization of employment and enterprises).
- **Documenting GA governance structures** at national level (under development).

Increased policy integration and evidence

A review of existing tools that support countries to integrate social protection and employment policies, improve financing and expenditure, and promote pathways for just transitions, has been undertaken by the agencies involved in the TSF. While many tools are relevant to the Global Accelerator, there is a need to further develop specific tools that can address the complex interrelations entailed by policy integration. As a result, some of ILO's existing tools were further developed to respond to the needs of pathfinder countries. This includes the **Structural Model for Sustainable Development (SMSD)**, the **Macroeconomic Diagnostic for Jobs, Social Protection and Just Transitions tool**, and the **Informality Dashboard** that connects sectoral and economic topics with social protection entitlement. These and other UN tools will be made available to UNCTs through the GA webpage and capacity-building events.

An online capacity development training course for pathfinder countries has been developed in collaboration with the International Training Center in Turin. This online course will be launched in the second half of 2024.



Country progress

By April 2024, fifteen countries have reached pathfinder status securing political support at the highest level, establishing a cross-ministerial coordination mechanism, and starting their Global Accelerator roadmaps.

Many of the [pathfinder countries](#) have initiated a policy mapping analysis and some have developed their Global Accelerator roadmap, which will serve as a guiding framework for the implementation of the initiative in the countries.



**High-Level Political
Commitment**



**Scoping
Mission**



**Policy Mapping
Analysis**



**Global Accelerator
Roadmap**

Albania

- **High-level commitment** to join the Global Accelerator and inter-ministerial coordination was ensured through the commitment letter of the Deputy Prime Minister of Albania on 1 August 2023. The process is led by the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Health and Social Protection.
- Buy-in from stakeholders was strengthened through an ILO **mission to Tirana** from 3 - 7 December 2023 to identify and discuss the national priorities for implementation.
- As a basis for the national roadmap development, a **policy mapping analysis** was completed in September 2023, led by UNDP and UNICEF.
- The national **roadmap** was completed on 31 October 2023 and endorsed by the Government of Albania in June 2024. It prioritizes integrated policy approaches to support persons with disabilities, reforms of the unemployment insurance and child benefit programme as well as investments in the care economy, investments in TVET and other labour market policies in priority sectors such as tourism, and sustainable financing.

Cabo Verde

- **High-level commitment** to join the Global Accelerator and inter-ministerial coordination ensured through the commitment letter of the Deputy Minister and Minister of Finance on 24 January

2024 with the support of the Minister of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security of Portugal.

- The support from the Portuguese government will focus on capacity building and skills development, especially in strategic areas such as youth employability, digitalization, energy transitions, civil construction, metalworking, and tourism.

Cambodia

- **High-level commitment** to join the Global Accelerator and inter-ministerial coordination ensured through the commitment letter of the Deputy Minister of Economy and Finance of Cambodia on 28 July 2023. The process is led by the Ministry of Economy and Finance and the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training.
- Buy-in from stakeholders strengthened through a **joint UN mission** from 28 August to 1 September 2023, including a national consultation workshop to discuss the national priorities.
- The first draft of the **policy mapping analysis** was completed in August 2023. The roadmap development is well-advanced and anticipated to be adopted by the government in July 2024 following consultations with the UN system, development partners, non-governmental organisations, private sector and social partners. The roadmap focuses on the adoption

of pro-employment macro-economic and financing policies, investments in TVET and apprenticeship for improved skills and inclusive employability, social protection extension with a specific focus on Universal Health Care, supporting formalization and productivity gains in priority sectors, and creating an enabling environment for inclusive labour market through the development of the care economy.

Colombia

- **High-level commitment** to join the Global Accelerator and inter-ministerial coordination ensured through the commitment letter of the National Planning Department and in consultation with the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit on 6 March 2024.
- Buy-in from stakeholders was strengthened through consultations with national stakeholders to discuss the relevance and value-added of the Accelerator in the country. On 13 February 2024, the UN Resident Coordinator chaired the first meeting of the advisory group on the future of the social protection system, which will serve as the national committee mandated to support the implementation of the Global Accelerator in Colombia.



Indonesia

- **High-level commitment** to join the Global Accelerator and inter-ministerial coordination ensured through the commitment letter of the Minister of National Development Planning of

Indonesia on 7 July 2023. The process is led by the Ministry of National Development Planning (Bappenas).

- Preparing the ground for swift implementation, the country has developed a comprehensive national Global Accelerator **roadmap**, which was presented during the [SDG Acceleration Day](#) on 17 September 2023.
- To strengthen buy-in from all stakeholders, the UNCT and Bappenas held various **committee meetings** attended by workers' and employers' organizations, government ministries and agencies, civil society organizations, international organizations and international financial institutions, to draft and finalize the roadmap.
- The Indonesian **roadmap** has been developed in line with the long-term national development strategy 2025–2045, of which the roadmap will directly contribute to the Social and Economic Transformation Pillars.

Malawi

- **High-level commitment** to join the Global Accelerator and inter-ministerial coordination ensured through a speech of the President of Malawi at the UN General Assembly in September 2022. The process is led by the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs.
- Buy-in from stakeholders was strengthened through a **joint UN scoping mission** from 19 - 23 June 2023 to conduct consultations and discuss the relevance of the Accelerator to Malawi's Vision 2063.
- Preparing the ground for swift implementation, Malawi has developed a comprehensive **roadmap** that identifies 3 key entry points for accelerating job creation and social protection expansion, namely: accelerating agriculture productivity and commercialisation; industrialising the mining sector through capacity strengthening; accelerating growth of the tourism industry. The draft roadmap was presented by the President of Malawi during the [SDG Acceleration Day](#) on 17 September 2023. It is currently being finalized and is expected to be endorsed by the government in July 2024.

Namibia

- **High-level commitment** to join the Global Accelerator and inter-ministerial coordination ensured through the commitment letter of the President of Namibia on 11 April 2023. The process is led by the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Finance, and the National Planning Commission.
- Buy-in from stakeholders was strengthened through **two missions** in February and July 2023 for national consultations and on the development of a national roadmap for implementation.
- As a basis for the national roadmap development, a **policy mapping analysis** was completed in August 2023 through a consultancy led by ILO.
- Namibia presented a draft implementation **roadmap** during the SDG Acceleration Day on 17 September 2023. The roadmap identifies four key entry points: coordination of employment creation; youth employment and entrepreneurship; expansion of social protection coverage and the national formalization strategy. These policy priorities will be implemented to facilitate just transitions in the green energy, tourism, agriculture, and mining sectors.
- Namibia is currently developing **12 thematic national roundtables** to identify employment creation and social protection interventions that will help finalize the national roadmap. Some of the topics envisaged for these roundtables are financing, formalization, social protection reform, youth, value chains and employment creation, among others.

Nepal

- To ensure inter-ministerial coordination and a participatory approach, the **Steering Committee** of the Global Accelerator in Nepal was established in August 2023, chaired by the National Planning Commission, and with the participation of various ministries, social partners, and UN agencies.
- As a basis for the national roadmap development, Nepal completed its **policy mapping analysis** and identified possible entry points for the GA to support

the development of the 16th National Development Plan and graduation strategy from a least-developed country to a middle-income country in December 2023.

- **High-level commitment** to join the Global Accelerator and inter-ministerial coordination ensured through an official expression of interest approved by Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', and signed by Dr. Min Bahadur Shrestha, Vice Chairman of the National Planning Commission of the government of Nepal on 26 February 2024.



Paraguay

- To assess the potential of the Global Accelerator in the country and ensure the support of all stakeholders, various national consultations took place during 2023.
- **High-level commitment** to join the Global Accelerator and inter-ministerial coordination ensured through a statement of the Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Security of Paraguay during an official meeting with ILO Director General, Gilbert F. Hounbou on 20 February 2024.
- The government, represented by the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Finance, has started a joint construction of the **Global Accelerator roadmap**.

Philippines

- The government, represented by the Department of Labour and Employment, together with national stakeholders has shown strong interest to join the initiative during a national tripartite conference on November 2023.
- On 28 February 2024, the Global Accelerator was presented to the Social Development Committee at the Cabinet level, which endorsed the country's engagement in the initiative.
- On 24 March 2024, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) committed to join the Global Accelerator and engage in inter-ministerial coordination, aiming to foster a job-rich recovery, extend social protection, and facilitate just transitions towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- The **official expression of interest** from the Philippines highlights the alignment of the Global Accelerator objectives with the country's development frameworks, particularly the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) and the Philippine Labor and Employment Plan (PLEP) for 2023-2028, both of which underscore as a priority the creation of employment opportunities.

Rwanda

- Buy-in from stakeholders was strengthened through a **joint UN scoping mission** in October 2023, paving the way to confirm the official commitment of the government with the Accelerator.
- **High-level commitment** to join the Global Accelerator and inter-ministerial coordination ensured through the commitment letter of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning on 12 January 2024.
- Three potential entry points were identified: formalizing and digitalizing the urban economy, modernizing, and greening the agriculture and achieving food security, and achieving gender equality through investments in the care economy. The Global Accelerator is expected to contribute to the development of Rwanda's revised Strategy for Transformation and related sectoral strategies.

Senegal

- Buy-in from stakeholders was strengthened through a **joint UN mission** from 11 - 15 December 2023, to reaffirming the value added of the Global Accelerator and confirming the **high-level commitment** of the government to join the initiative.
- **High-level commitment** to join the Global Accelerator and inter-ministerial coordination were ensured through the commitment letter of the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Cooperation on 18 December 2023. The process is led by the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Cooperation.
- As a basis for the national roadmap development, a **policy mapping analysis** in connection with the Global Accelerator was developed during the last month of 2023.
- The agro-industrial sector emerged as one of the priority sectors. The Global Accelerator aims to contribute to strengthening labour market and social protection institutions as well as to the effective implementation of current national strategies by ensuring complementarity, coherence, and a human-centred approach.
- The Global Accelerator is one of the six pathways selected by the United Nations System to achieve the SDGs in Senegal.



Uzbekistan

- **High-level commitment** to join the Global Accelerator and inter-ministerial coordination ensured through the commitment letter from the Prime Minister on 23 August 2023. The process is led by the Ministry of Economy and Finance and the National Agency of Social Protection.
- To ensure the buy-in of all relevant stakeholders, a **joint UN scoping mission** took place on 19-20 October 2023. A series of high-level meetings between ten government ministries, social partners, civil society, and key national stakeholders were conducted during the mission.
- Several preliminary priority areas, including the extension of social protection to workers and their families in rural areas, capacity building of social protection and employment institutions, digitalization, investments in the energy sector in the context of the green transition, the transition to formality and investment in the care economy, among others, have been identified to accelerate and support Uzbekistan's strategy 2030 to create decent work for all, extend social protection and promote just transitions.

Viet Nam

- **High-level commitment** to join the Global Accelerator and inter-ministerial coordination ensured through the Communist Party's Central Executive Committee's Resolution No 42-NQ/TW on 24 November 2023. It **confirmed the country's engagement** with the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions, and formalized the clear intention of the government to become a pathfinder country of the Global Accelerator.
- The country's engagement in the Global Accelerator was the subject of a meeting between Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh and Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Gilbert F. Houngbo on 17 January 2024, on the sideline of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.
- Paving the way for the development of the roadmap and further reinforcing Viet Nam's commitment as a pathfinder

country, the Government of Viet Nam issued Resolution 68/NQ-CP, promulgating the Government Action Plan for the implementation of Party Resolution No 42-NQ/TW, on 9 May 2024.



Pathfinder countries joined from April 2024

Democratic Republic of the Congo

- The government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo has confirmed its high-level commitment to join the Global Accelerator to stimulate economic recovery and ecological transition by addressing the national challenges related to employment creation and social protection. The official expression of interest was signed by the Minister of Planning on 4 April 2024 to formally state the country's interest to align the Global Accelerator objectives in accordance with the Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) for 2021-2024.
- The initiative will also support other government programmes related to youth employment, universal health coverage, and the promotion of decent job opportunities.
- Following the official commitment, the government through the Minister of Planning, will coordinate consultations with national stakeholders to enable the development of a national roadmap that will set the direction for the implementation of the Accelerator in the country.



Key lessons learned

Lesson 1: High-level support and effective collaboration of the UN system, combined with systematic communication on the value proposition of the Global Accelerator has contributed to the endorsement of the initiative in global fora, raised pathfinder countries' interest to join the initiative, and created traction and momentum with development and financing partners.

Lesson 2: High-level commitment from heads of government elicited by the Global Accelerator is critical to generating support from key Ministries, including Finance, Economy or Planning, as well as Labour, Social Affairs, Education and Training, Industry, Agriculture and Trade, and securing cross-ministerial collaboration.

Lesson 3: Financing policy acceleration for decent jobs and universal social protection is particularly challenging in the current context, but the Global Accelerator, by working with Ministries of Economy and Finance, partnering with IFIs, and linking the initiative to global funds, can support the implementation of concrete pathways for increasing and improving domestic investments complemented by international support.

Lesson 4: The Global Accelerator resonates with the policy priorities and the aim of public development banks to increase their contributions to the SDGs, including the World Bank (through a dedicated partnership, the "M-GA") and other public development banks (through the FICS Coalition for Social Investments).

Lesson 5: The Global Accelerator's Steering Group fosters South-South collaboration and can support global advocacy for social investments based on concrete evidence. The Global Accelerator's lessons learned, results and impact can provide useful evidence in the context of the preparation of the Financing for Development and World Summit for Social Development outcome documents.

Lesson 6: The relevance and added value of the Global Accelerator evolved from being one of the United Nations' responses to the COVID-19 pandemic to one of the six transitions that the UN is promoting to accelerate the SDGs. Sufficiently flexible to

be tailor-made to national circumstances, the Global Accelerator contributes to the acceleration of national development priorities in many different countries and contexts.



Lesson 7: Social dialogue is key to ensure that the identified priorities of Global Accelerator roadmaps respond to the needs of workers, employers, and the population at large, and that implementation is participatory and thus sustainable. In Cambodia for instance, the Cambodia Federation of Employers and Business Associations (CAMFEBA) and the National Trade Union Confederation (NTUC) have signed a bipartite agreement expressing their commitments to engage in bipartite dialogues to identify and address challenges and achieve priorities in the development and implementation of the Global Accelerator roadmap in the country.



The way forward

In **2024** the implementation of the initiative will progress towards the following targets:

Country engagement

- **25 countries** will have confirmed their high-level commitment to accelerate progress on jobs, social protection and just transitions.
- In addition to Albania, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malawi, Namibia and Uzbekistan, **ten further countries** will have adopted coherent Global Accelerator roadmaps that are adequately resourced, and started implementation.
- **At least six countries will have begun implementation** of Global Accelerator activities prioritized by the national roadmaps (Albania, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malawi, Namibia, and Uzbekistan).

Resource mobilization for technical assistance to countries

- **The Joint SDG Fund** will have allocated resources under the first funding round.
- **The M-GA** will be launched.
- **At least US\$ 10 million will be mobilized** for the Joint SDG Fund to organize one additional funding round.
- In addition, **US\$ 40 million** will be mobilised to complement Joint SDG Fund financial support, multiplying resources for technical assistance by four.

Advocacy, partnerships and communication

- Financing for policy development will be increased through partnerships with **public development banks** in at least two countries.
- At least **four meetings of the Steering Group** will be organized, including to discuss how to position the Global

Accelerator in the global debate on financing for development.

- The Global Accelerator will be highlighted in at least **two high-level fora** such as the International Labour Conference and the FICS 2024.
- At least one concrete partnership will be initiated with **global/vertical funds** (such as the Loss and Damage Fund and the Global Shield).
- Concrete partnerships will be developed with at least **two global policy initiatives** (such as the Global Coalition for Social Justice, USP2030).

The Technical Support Facility will be strengthened with a dedicated budget and will increase its support to pathfinder countries

- **The TSF Hub of expertise** will be operational and provide on-demand support to pathfinder countries.
- **At least two** tools will be published and applied to select policy scenarios based on evidence.
- **A capacity-building package** will be developed and made available to UNCTs and pathfinder countries.
- At least **four additional countries** will join as pathfinders.
- At least **one South-South learning event** will be organized.
- **A Results Monitoring Tool** will be developed based on a finalized GA Results Framework.
- At least **one call for research proposals** will be organized.
- **The TSF will continue the mobilization of** resources for the Global Accelerator and the M-GA.

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.

This is the first progress report of the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions for the period January 2023 to April 2024.

Find out more:

unglobalaccelerator.org

Get involved:

contact@unglobalaccelerator.org

