

## **Key intervention: Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions**

Thematic Area of the Coalition	<b><i>Providing protection and building resilience</i></b> Partners contributing to this thematic area seek to improve standards of living, strengthen the resilience of individuals, communities, workers and enterprises to crises and enable them to cope better with fast-paced transformation. It entails, notably, bringing about universal social protection through the development of social protection systems, including floors, with special attention being paid to universal health coverage. It also aims to advance protection at work for all, through adequate wages, improved working conditions and protection against work-related injuries.
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### **1. Background and context**

Countries made a global promise to secure the rights and well-being of everyone on a healthy, thriving planet when they adopted the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs in 2015. Yet, half of the world's population has no access to social protection and over half of the people employed are working in low-income and insecure jobs. According to the *ILO Monitor on the world of work*, in 2023, the global jobs gap was projected to stand at 453 million people and 4 billion people were still excluded from social protection.

The COVID-19 pandemic caused an unprecedented loss of jobs and livelihoods and exacerbated income insecurity around the world. The impact has been particularly adverse for people without access to social protection, including those working in the informal and care economies, women, children, youth and those without access to digital technologies. In addition, the conflict in Ukraine has exposed fragilities in the global food and energy systems, as well as in the global economic and financial systems, triggering a cost-of-living crisis around the world unseen in at least a generation. This has to be set against the backdrop of the accelerating climate crisis and its adverse impacts on economies and societies. Constrained by rising debt burdens and shrinking fiscal space, many countries now face an even more daunting policy landscape.

The Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions aims to respond to these complex challenges and chart a human-centred green recovery out of the present crisis and facilitate the inclusive structural transformations needed to achieve the SDGs by 2030. It was launched in September 2021 by the UN Secretary-General with the aim of fast-tracking much-needed global actions to promote a job-rich recovery, as well as just ecological, technological and societal transitions to more sustainable and inclusive economies.

### **2. Collective ambition and rationale**

The Global Accelerator aims to direct policy support and public and private investments to help create millions of decent jobs, primarily in the green, digital and care economies, and extend social protection to the 3.8 billion people currently excluded.

It advances the objectives of providing protection and building resilience by supporting countries in overcoming coverage and financing gaps for universal social protection, closing other decent work

deficits, in particular for those working in the informal and rural economy, ensuring that public and private investments create quality jobs and expand social protection, protecting communities against the effect of climate change and other covariate risks while facilitating just transitions for all. It contributes to SDGs 1 and 8, and also to SDGs 2, 3, 4, 5, 10 and 17.

The Global Accelerator's Global Steering Group amplifies multilateral collaboration between pathfinder country governments, social partners, UN, development partners, IFIs and other financing institutions and civil society, for both maximizing results on the ground and influencing the global development agenda, in collaboration with the Global Coalition for Social Justice. Advocacy, partnerships, resource mobilization, on demand support to countries, results monitoring and consolidation, and knowledge development and sharing are coordinated by the technical support facility's coordination team and the Hub of Expertise. Regional offices and IBCs contribute to the Hub of Expertise with advisory services, capacity-building and resource mobilization. UN country teams at national level supported by the Hub of Expertise provide technical and policy support to governments in the development, implementation and financing of national Global Accelerator road maps.

**Evidence** – The Global Accelerator strengthens the availability, reliability and analysis of representative, gender-disaggregated datasets, including at the sectoral level, to inform policy formulation and evaluation, assess spending and financing gaps, and measure results and impact.

**Capacity-building and training** – The Global Accelerator enhances national capacities of the tripartite constituents, through technical assistance, innovative methodologies, tailor-made tools and training, including for the promotion, ratification and application of international labour standards relevant to the achievement of the Global Accelerator objectives.

**Multi-stakeholder and multilateral cooperation** – The Global Accelerator fosters cross-ministerial collaboration, social dialogue and dialogue with the civil society, maximizing synergies with UN, IFIs and development partners. This includes building specific partnerships with the World Bank, and the Coalition for Social Investment of the Financing in Common Summit.

**Technical assistance** – The Global Accelerator develops and applies rights-based and gender-responsive tools and methodologies on integrated employment, enterprise and social protection policies and programmes for just transitions, formalization, investments in high-impact sectors, adequate and sustainable national financing frameworks, crisis mitigation and multilateral cooperation, and supports their application in pathfinder and other countries which have prioritized jobs and social protection as one of the key transitions to achieve the SDGs.

**Financing and investments** – The Global Accelerator supports countries in closing social protection financing gaps and increasing investments in decent jobs, by creating accountability through systematic and harmonized reviews of social protection and employment expenditures, by identifying financing and investment avenues and supporting concrete policy and fiscal reforms and investments, and by promoting a more conducive macroeconomic framework.

The Global Accelerator is a prime example of multilateral UN system action to address social justice deficits. In addressing two essential components of social justice, the creation of decent employment and the achievement of universal social protection for just transitions, it clearly contributes to the aims of the Coalition serving as one of its operational underpinnings. Both initiatives work towards enhanced policy coherence and amplified action to achieve the SDGs. They both unite partners from governments, employers' and workers' organizations, international institutions, enterprises, non-governmental organizations and academic institutions to accelerate progress towards the social SDGs.

### 3. Actions and expected results

The Global Accelerator works towards five objectives:

1. Integrated and well-coordinated national social protection and employment policies and programmes,
2. Integrated national strategies for adequate and sustainable financing,
3. Strengthened national social protection and employment programmes and systems,
4. Innovation and new knowledge, evidence and tools and
5. National ownership and multilateral cooperation.

The Global Accelerator's expected results span across i) policy and institutional changes, ii) improved financing, and iii) impacts on people and enterprises.

The [Global Accelerator's Theory of Change](#) develops a dynamic and interconnected articulation for how change is expected to be accelerated under the Global Accelerator. As such, it focuses less on the sequence of inputs and actions and more on synergies between policies and the multiplier effects that integrated policies can produce. This approach emphasizes the complex nature of introducing systemic advancements and allows for a deeper understanding of the ingredients required for accelerated change to take place. The expected results of the work of the Global Accelerator are also not presented as outputs and outcomes which are linked to specific activities, but as interconnected results that can be achieved through the various streams of the Global Accelerator.

Concretely, in 2025 the Global Accelerator will carry out impact evaluations with limited information to measure the impact of its interventions on households' welfare, the creation of decent jobs within targeted sectors, or the number of informal workers and enterprises moved into the formal economy, both of which capture some aspects of the expansion of social protection.

### 4. Partners' contributions

**Communication/advocacy** – All partners can advocate for investments in the extension of social protection and the creation of decent jobs to facilitate just transitions, based on the evidence produced by the Global Accelerator. This includes advocating for international solidarity and proposing concrete measures to put this solidarity in action. Partners can actively mobilize international financing for social protection and decent jobs, to complement and support domestic

resource mobilization efforts. In order to mobilize support and resources at national level, advocacy efforts should not only focus on international forums, but be adapted to the national context.

Concrete opportunities for advocacy in 2025 include a Global Conference on Social Protection in Samarkand, Uzbekistan; the Fourth Conference on Financing for Development in Seville, Spain; the World Summit for Social Development; COP30 in Brazil; and the Finance in Common Summit in February 2025 in Cape Town, South Africa.

**Knowledge generation/exchange of practices** – All partners can disseminate the knowledge products generated by the Global Accelerator. This includes research products, handbooks and tools, as well as analytical work at the country level to promote good practices. It also includes a global observatory that will more specifically measure the financing gaps to achieve universal social protection and decent employment in pathfinder countries.

All partners, in particular pathfinder countries, are welcome to suggest new knowledge products and tools that support them creating decent jobs and expanding social protection for just transitions. Similarly, partners can contribute by organizing South–South learning opportunities where good practices and experiences on enhanced policy coherence and amplified action for creation of decent jobs and achievement of universal social protection coverage can be exchanged among the countries especially the pathfinder countries of the Global Accelerator.