United Nations | Department of Economic and Social Affairs

SDG Good Practices:

A compilation of success stories and lessons learned in SDG implementation

SECOND EDITION

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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A compilation of success stories and lessons learned in SDG implementation

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Members of the UN Inter-Agency Analytical team

United Nations | Department of Economic and Social Affairs

About UN DESA

The Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat is a vital interface between global policies in the economic, social and environmental spheres and national action. The Department works in three main interlinked areas:

(i) it compiles, generates and analyzes a wide range of economic, social and environmental data and information on which States Members of the United Nations draw to review common problems and to take stock of policy options;

(ii) it facilitates the negotiations of Member States in many intergovernmental bodies on joint courses of action to address ongoing or emerging global challenges; and

(iii) it advises interested Governments on the ways and means of translating policy frameworks developed in United Nations conferences and summits into programs at the country level and, through technical assistance, helps build national capacities.

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Acronyms

COVID-19	Coronavirus disease
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DSDG	Division for Sustainable Development Goals
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
ILO	International Labor Organization
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SME	Small and Mid-size Enterprise
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UN DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEN	United Nations Economist Network
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNRCO	United Nations Resident Coordinator Office
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division

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Foreword

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is anchored in a spirit of strengthened global solidarity, with a focus on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable and with the participation of all countries, all stakeholders and all people.

In the six years since the adoption of this ambitious and universal framework, we have witnessed a tremendous mobilization of not only national governments but also of stakeholders from different sectors, including civil society organizations, the private sector, academia, local governments, international organizations, action communities and many others around the 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that are at its core.

In 2021, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) launched a second open call for SDG Good Practices, Success Stories and Lessons Learned by governments, the UN system entities and other stakeholders. More than 700 submissions were received and reviewed by an inter-agency team of UN experts and over 460 have been made publicly available in a dedicated online platform.

The SDGs Good Practices platform serves as a knowledge-exchange hub of success stories and lessons learned in SDG implementation. Not only does the platform provide the 'Who, What, When, Where, and Why?' for each initiative, but it also offers a comprehensive look into relevant consultation processes; mechanisms for implementation; tried and tested solutions; and most importantly, the means of scaling and replicating initiatives. This publication aims to highlight a few of the outstanding examples from the second open call for SDG Good Practices, including insights into how partners have responded to the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, while maintaining their commitment to SDG implementation.

In many instances, diverse actors have come together and formed partnerships to scale up the impact of initiatives. As a result, several SDG Good Practices are reporting on the dividends of having united key actors from the outset of their initiatives. It also presents initiatives that have been scaled up from the local to the national level and showcases inspiring actions that have been brought to scale at the regional level.

We hope that the SDGs Good Practices platform can inspire governments and other stakeholders around the world to find innovative solutions to tackle SDG-related challenges and help facilitate peer learning and concrete partnerships.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted many of the deeply rooted problems in our societies. To address them, we need to make major structural transformations and develop common solutions guided by the SDGs. Only by taking action at the global, regional, local and individual levels can we pursue a transformative recovery from the effects of COVID-19 and double down on our efforts to make the 2030 Agenda a reality for all.

LIU ZHENMIN
Under-Secretary-General
for Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations

Introduction

In the six years since the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted in 2015, representatives from Governments, Local and Regional Governments, Multilateral Bodies, Intergovernmental Organizations, NGOs, Civil Society Organizations, Academic Institutions, Scientific Community, the Private Sector, Philanthropic Organizations, Partnerships, and other relevant stakeholders have gained in-depth knowledge and expertise, and taken innovative steps towards implementing this ambitious global framework. Many inspiring breakthroughs and success stories are showing results and impacts all over the world. These good practices can be replicated and scaled up to address existing gaps and constraints.

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), through its Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG), launched a second open call for 'SDG Good Practices, Success Stories, and Lessons Learned' in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 SDGs. The second open call was conducted from December 2020 to March 2021 aiming to highlight examples of good practices, including those that could be replicated or scaled up by others across the globe. This initiative builds on the success of the first open call for 'SDG Good Practices, Success Stories, and Lessons Learned', which concluded in 2019. A digital publication of the 'SDG Good Practices: A compilation of success stories and lessons learned in SDG implementation (First Edition)' is available on the UN DESA website.
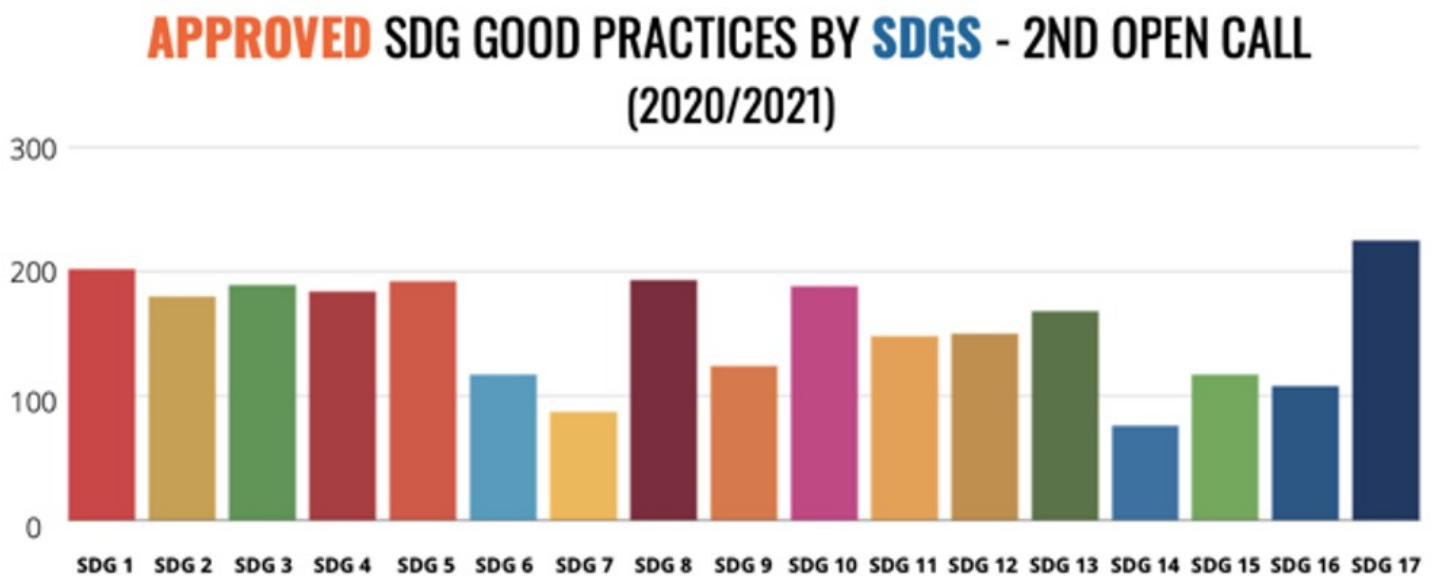
Figure 1: Number of Good Practices per SDG in the second open call. Source: UN DESA

During the second open call, more than 740 submissions were received from a broad range of stakeholders. A UN Inter-Agency Analytical team, comprised of representatives from 24 UN entities, reviewed the submissions and approved over 460 SDG Good Practices.

The results have been made available through the SDG Good Practice Online Database, which allows users to search through results by SDG, by region, and by entity type. The SDG Good Practices cover all 17 SDGs and range from large-scale international initiatives designed to have an impact on broad cross-sections of society, to small-scale initiatives which focus on a handful of targeted beneficiaries. The outcomes of all the practices demonstrate that we need a multitude of actions and approaches to ensure that no one will be left behind. Figure 1, above, highlights that SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), SDG 1 (No Poverty), and SDG 8 (Decent Work & Economic Growth) are most referred to in the submissions.

Approved Submissions by Region
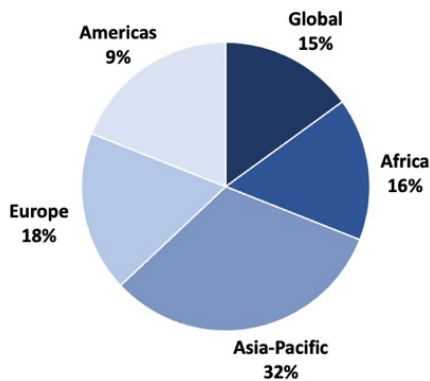
Figure 2: SDG Good Practices submitted
by Region in the second open call.
Source: UN DESA

Approved Submissions by Sector

Figure 3: SDG Good Practices submitted by
sector in the second open call.
Source: UN DESA

The thematic and geographic breadth of the SDG Good Practices during the Second Open Call has been remarkable. These factors, in addition to the sheer volume of submissions that were received are evidence of the comprehensive network of actors contributing to SDG implementation. Global initiatives comprised 15% of approved submissions. Submissions were also received from Africa (16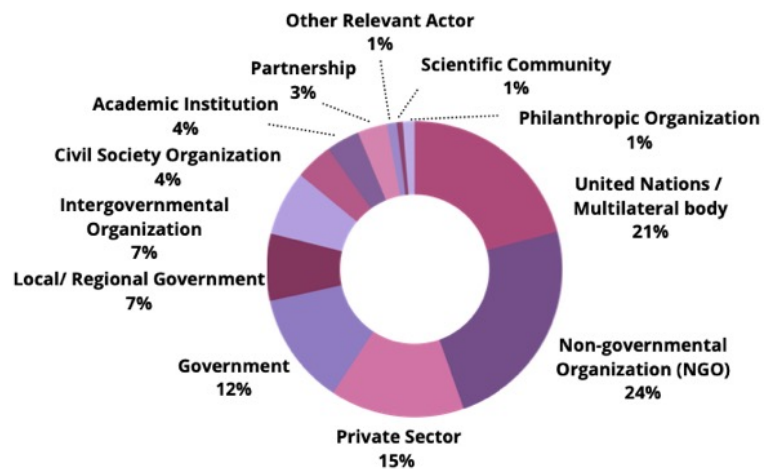%), Asia and the Pacific (32%), Europe (18%),and the Americas (9%). Proposals came from sectors including United Nations/ Multilateral Bodies (21%), Non-Governmental Organizations (24%), Private Sector (15%), Governments (12%), Local governments (7%), Intergovernmental Organizations (7%), and others.

This publication has been curated to highlight a sample of these initiatives and to demonstrate how different stakeholders are building partnerships to find innovative solutions to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. The 21 SDG Good Practices contained in the publication share their lessons learned and identify how the practices can be scaled and replicated worldwide. Bringing this global expertise to scale will be critical to support recovery efforts from the COVID-19 pandemic and to accelerate progress towards the Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs. A short summary of each chapter can be found below.

CHAPTER I - GLOBAL:
EFFECTIVE INVESTMENT, SECURE GROWTH

The four SDG Good Practice practices in this chapter all cover multiple countries or regions, and concentrate on investment in people, investment in organizations, investment in infrastructure, and investment in transition.

The 'Partnership for Action on Green Economy' (p.13), unites five United Nations agencies which collaborate direct-ly with national and regional governments to put sustainability at the heart of economic policymaking for green economy transitions. The EU External Investment Plan (p.15), is helping to attract private sector investments in countries neighboring the EU and in Africa to bridge the gap between available financing and the financing needed to create jobs, to boost growth and to meet the other SDGs.

Through 'Impact Investing' (p.17), Merck is thoughtfully investing in organizations that are tackling diverse elements of the health care ecosystem, including developing treatments for infectious diseases; developing tools for financial inclusion; and providing vaccines and health supplies. The 'Postgraduate Fellowship in Migrant and Refugee Health' (p.19), is a medical capacity building program for local healthcare workers serving in humanitarian settings to improve their clinical practice and meet the healthcare needs of refugee populations.

CHAPTER II – AFRICA:
**RURAL INCLUSION,
ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT**

The four SDG Good Practices presented in this chapter focus on the empowerment of those left further behind in the region, particularly vulnerable populations in rural locations.

In Egypt (p.22), the National Government and the World Bank launched the 'Upper Egypt Local Development Program' to boost public capital investments and develop broader connectivity, industrial infrastructure, and availability of services in two of the country's poorest governorates. In South Africa (p.24), a garden-based educational program for public schools, 'Sprouting Entrepreneurs', has brought local communities together to respond to challenges surrounding quality education, youth unemployment, and food insecurity. In Angola (p.26), the 'Train for Trade II' EU- UNCTAD Joint Program for Angola simultane-ously strengthens national capacities to identify and develop green products and services in agriculture as well as in creative industries to help diversify Angola's economy. The Joint Program engage a broad range of stakeholders in its consultative process to economically empower women and small-scale producers. In Nigeria (p.28), the 'Recyclespay Educational Project' provides parents in low-income communities with opportunities to pay for school fees by collecting used plastic and other recyclable materials.

CHAPTER III – ASIA-PACIFIC:
**STAKEHOLDER COOPERATION,
SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIPS**

The four practices presented in this chapter highlight the intrinsic value and sustainability of multi-stakeholder collaboration and coordination.

In rural China (p.31), Deqing County is using big data and digital technology to modernize rural governance, upgrade the rural information infrastructure and speed up the expansion of IoT (Internet of things). In Malaysia (p.33), ECOLOO has developed an odorless, and waterless toilet installation for isolated and water stressed areas. The technology is eco-friendly, prevents the spread of disease and saves gallons of clean water. In Indonesia (p.35), the 'SINERGI Project' formed a high-level partnership to promote multi-stakeholder coordination between local government, civil society,

and private sector actors. Its purpose was to facilitate access to training and employment opportunities for young people. In India (p.37), the 'TESTA' stakeholder collective was formed, and it brought actors from different sectors of society together to ensure commitment to a common agenda on issues of sex trafficking.

CHAPTER IV - EUROPE:
DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION, GRASSROOT INSPIRATION
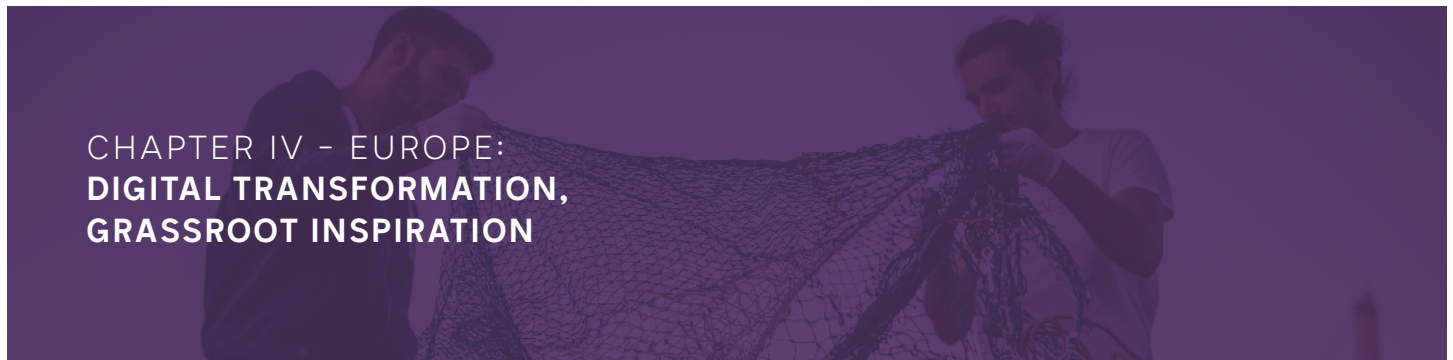
The four SDG Good Practices in this chapter focus on awareness-raising and technical support to engage more stakeholders in the delivery of the 2030 Agenda. In Russia (p.40), 'Centrostat' has created a unique educational and consulting platform which is contributing to the development of official statistics, statistical literacy, formation of monitoring indicators for the SDGs while strengthening international statistical capacity. In Turkey (p.42), multilateral bodies and private sector actors formed a partnership to launch the 'BOOST Civil Society Technology Challenge' and accelerate the digital transformation of Civil Society Organizations. In the UK (p.44), students at Durham University are collaborating on solutions to the SDGs through 'Game Changer Innovation Program', a fast-paced, extra-curricular innovation program. In Greece (p.46), Mediterranean CleanUp is working with a network of fishermen to reduce and recycle marine waste. In doing so, it has raised awareness about the SDGs and increased the income of many low-paid migrant fishermen.

CHAPTER V - AMERICAS:
INNOVATIVE IDEAS, SCALABLE DESIGN
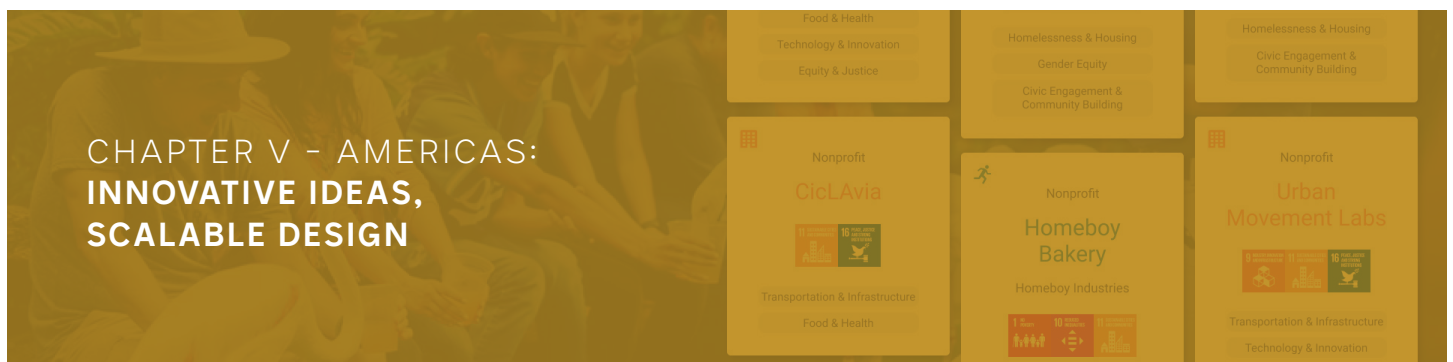
The SDG Good Practices presented in this chapter all feature innovative blueprints which would be easily replicable worldwide.

In Argentina (p.49), the National Government distributed the 'Tarjeta Alimentar' debit card, to ensure that the country's most vulnerable populations receive basic food provisions. In Panama (p.51), the 'Escuelas de Campo' field-school methodology is being implemented in rural areas to strengthen the agri-food systems of indigenous families. In many countries in the region the National School Feeding Program of Brazil (p. 53) has been replicated to strengthen the institutional capacity to develop food and nutritional security policies at the national and regional level. In the USA (p.55), the City of Los Angeles has pioneered two open-source tools for local action on the SDGs. It is now reporting data on 160 localized SDG indicators and continuously measuring progress on the SDGs. In Brazil (p.57), 'CPFL nos Hospitais' is helping hospitals and other public institutions to reduce energy costs while simultaneously generating clean energy and releasing funds for key medical expenses.

CHAPTER I

GLOBAL:
EFFECTIVE INVESTMENT, SECURE GROWTH

Participants conducting a role-play group activity for the Doctors Worldwide 'Health in Humanitarian Crises' module of the Postgraduate Fellowship in Migrant and Refugee Health

Source: **Doctors Wordwide, 2021**

Partnership for Action on Green Economy

SNAPSHOT

Geographical coverage: Africa (Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mauritius, Morocco, Senegal, South Africa) Asia-Pacific (China, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Thailand) Americas (Argentina, Guatemala, Barbados, Brazil, Guyana, Peru, Uruguay)

Entity Name: Partnership for Action on Green Economy (un-page.org)

Entity Type: United Nations / Multilateral body

Implementation period: 15 February 2013 - 15 February 2030

Key stakeholders and partnerships: United Nations Agencies (UNEP, ILO, UNDP, UNIDO and UNITAR); national government; regional and local government; private sector; civil society; and youth and gender movements

Relevant SDGs:

Click to learn more:
sdgs.un.org/partnerships/partnership-action-green-economy

BRIEF SUMMARY

PAGE is a global partnership which unites five United Nations agencies, namely UNEP, the ILO, UNDP, UNIDO and UNITAR. The partnership provides integrated and holistic support to countries on eradicating poverty; increasing jobs and social equity; strengthening livelihoods and environmental stewardship and sustaining growth; ensuring coherence; and avoiding duplication of efforts. Launched in 2013, following the Rio+20 Conference, PAGE currently supports 20 countries, working with national and regional governments to build inclusive, green economy transitions. The work is demand-driven and aligns with national priorities to support concrete and accelerated action on the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda.

9 JULY 2021 | 8.00-9.30 EDT/14.00-15.30 CEST

Green Recoveries for a Job-Rich Future

PAGE side event flyer. Credit: PAGE Secretariat

PAGE aims to put sustainability at the heart of economic policymaking and practices to advance the 2030 Agenda through an inclusive green economy approach. PAGE works directly with governments to deliver technical assistance across policy development, sectoral reform, and capacity-building for inclusive, green economy transitions. This fosters an enabling environment for lasting change that aims to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs with lasting change that is embedded within national and regional policies and institutions. Through assessments and economic modelling PAGE leverages technical expertise to guide policymakers with sound research to make informed decision-making and enact institutional changes that holistically and inclusively benefit both people and the plane. It works across sectors to seek the integration of policies and strategies that will enable countries to achieve multiple targets through an inclusive green economy approach.

At the country level, PAGE collaborates with ministries and stakeholders who are engaged in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda providing coordinated UN support for national sustainable development policy reform. The evidence-based support has resulted in medium and long-term change primarily across SDGs 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, and 17.

Being demand-driven and connected to governments ensures PAGE's success and contribution to long-term, country-owned progress on sustainable development. While government priorities can shift, PAGE remains flexible to serve countries without compromising on the goal of sustainable and inclusive development.

To further ensure change is lasting and driven from within countries, PAGE maintains an embedded National Coordinator at the country level, and stays engaged with UN Resident Coordinators and collaborating partners, ensuring knowledge sharing, country-ownership, adequate prioritization and collaboration that can avoid duplicated efforts.

PAGE has delivered results across its 20 partner countries to date assisting partner countries in developing 85 national policies and development plans, training over 15,000 individuals and inspiring 96 countries to act on greening their economies, in line with the priorities of the 2030 Agenda. Partnering with 225 national institutions and ministries, PAGE has also carried out 130 assessments, 274 consultations and workshops, and developed 22 knowledge products and 21 training packages. PAGE also fosters knowledge-sharing between partners to enhance the impact of lessons learned and best practices.

PAGE aims to model best practices of leveraging collective action for reaching the SDGs. Moreover, in 2021 PAGE entered its second phase with plans to scale-up, increase reach and support 30 countries by 2030. Between 2021-2030, the Partnership will deepen its engagement with current partner countries, assist new countries in integrated economic policy development and national planning, and widen its alliance with other institutions, initiatives and programs, including from the private sector and civil society, with special attention to youth and gender movements. This will include greater South-South and Triangular Cooperation which will enable partners to share their best practices and transfer knowledge to further expand the impact of the Partnership.

With its expertise and experience in the field of green economic transformation, PAGE is contributing to the work of the UN Economist Network (UNEN). Additionally, PAGE, in close coordination with UNEN and its Chief Economist, Elliott Harris, has established an Economic Policy Advisory Group (PEPAG) to provide deeper support on economics to partner countries. It aims to deliver transformative results for the whole economy and the economic recovery from impacts of COVID-19, paying special attention to shifting transformational levers, while keeping an eye on fairness and social justice. PEPAG is composed of UN economists from PAGE agencies and the UN Resident Coordinator Office (UNRCO), supported by national and international think-tanks and existing networks of economists from PAGE agencies.

COVID-19 Impact

In 2020, PAGE contributed to the development and incorporation of environmental sustainability and green economy thinking into guiding UN documents: A UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19; the UN Sustainable Development Group's guidance note to UN Country Teams on Economic Transformation; The UN Secretary General's Policy Brief on The World of Work and COVID-19; and the Report of the UN Economist Network for the UN 75th Anniversary: Shaping the Trends of Our Time. Additionally, assessment, monitoring and engagement across partnersculminated in commitments to 14 PAGE Partner Countries for targeted inclusive green recovery support. This support mechanism is complementary to ongoing PAGE work for sustainable development transformation in these countries.

PAGE BY NUMBERS

8 Funding partners	**20** Partner Countries	**12** Collaborating Partners	**83** Policies Supported	**221** National Institutions & Ministries Partnering
123 Assesments	**49** Initiatives providing Co-Financing	**US$87m** Total Contributions to PAGE	**51** Countries requesting support	**20** Knowledge products
15,092 People trained	**278** Consultations & Workshops	**21** Training packages	**46** Global events	**96** Countries Represented at PAGE Events

EU External Investment Plan (EIP), including the European Fund for Sustainable Development

SNAPSHOT

Geographical coverage: States in the EU's Eastern Partnership (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine) States in the EU's Southern Neighborhood (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia) and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Entity Name: European Commission (ec.europa.eu/info/index_en)

Entity Type: Intergovernmental organization

Implementation period: 1 September 2017 – 1 June 2025

Key stakeholders and partnerships: National government; financial institutions; public and private investors; business groups; civil society groups; local banks; small business owners; entrepreneurs

Relevant SDGs:

Click to learn more:

sdgs.un.org/partnerships/eu-external-investment-plan-eip-including-european-fund-sustainable-development

BRIEF SUMMARY

The European Union External Investment Plan (EIP) is being implemented by the European Commission to help generate jobs, growth and prosperity in countries neighboring the EU and in Africa. The EU External Investment Plan helps countries to attract considerable investment, especially from the private sector. This investment helps to bridge the gap between available financing and the financing needed to create jobs, to boost growth, and to meet the other SDGs. In turn this provides countries with more stability, prosperity and opportunities. People living in these countries are given more opportunities to stay and build their lives, while investors are offered more reasons to enter into those markets.

A major component of the EU External Investment Plan is the European Fund for Sustainable Development, which aims to support investments as a means to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs, in particular to eradicate poverty. It comprises financial guarantees and 'blending' projects, which combine EU grants with other public and private finance. Implementation of both financial guarantees and blending projects is well underway. With the guarantees, the EU External Investment Plan has refocused them to help countries respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

EU External Investment Plan infographic. Copyright EU

The EU External Investment Plan targets in particular small business owners, women and young people.

Milembe Daniel, Student, Tanzania Copyright EU, Credit Didier Malchaire

The European Commission is devoting more of the available financing to small businesses to help them stay afloat by encouraging local banks to lend more to them and by making it more affordable for them to borrow. In many cases small business will be able to pay less in interest or repay loans over longer periods. The European Commission is also devoting more of the available financing towards healthcare, in particular into testing labs. It has allocated all €1.55 billion available through the Plan for financial guarantees. This should bring in €17.5 billion in overall investment. The European Commission concluded 18 agreements with partner institutions to put all the guarantees into practice.

The European Fund for Sustainable Development has allocated €3.5 billion through the Plan for grants for blending projects, financing 181 in total. This should bring in about €32.6 billion in overall investment. In parallel, the EU External Investment Plan has provided major support to help partner countries become more attractive places in which to invest and do business, which improves the investment climate. This includes work in 15 countries to identify what discourages potential investors and how to bring them on board; bringing together governments and businesses on a regular basis in 16 countries to discuss challenges to secure investment; and backing government reforms and other initiatives to attract more investment to the tune of over €600 million in 2019 alone.

Experts predict that the EU External Investment Plan will have a major impact on jobs and small firms, energy and climate, clean water and sanitation, and connectivity and infrastructure. More than 5.2 million jobs have been created or sustained. Over €1.9 billion has been provided in loans and financing for local entrepreneurs and small business owners. Each year 14,800 MW of extra power has been generated and 2,800 GW-hours of energy has been saved. 15,800 kilotons of CO_2 emissions have been avoided and 48,300 GW of renewable energy has been generated. 3,400 km of water pipes have been installed or upgraded. 896,300 cubic meters of extra wastewater has been treated daily. 1,800 km of sewer pipes have been installed or upgraded and 4,340 000 people will benefit from improved sanitation services. 7,100 km of roads have been built or upgraded. 12,400 km of electricity lines have been constructed or upgraded. 109,100 new connections to urban water networks have been developed.

The European Commission has established close partnerships with financial institutions and governments, business and civil society groups in partner countries. This has allowed the EU External Investment Plan to generate over €50 billion in overall investment, a major contribution to the SDGs. In its next long-term budget, 2021-2027, the EU will continue to use the financing model of the European Fund for Sustainable Development through its successor, the EFSD+. This will have significantly more financing and a much wider geographic scope.

To read about other good practices submitted by the European Commission, please access the SDG Good Practices Online Database.

Impact Investing

BRIEF SUMMARY

Merck is growing its global impact investing portfolio to address several SDGs by thoughtfully investing in organizations that are tackling diverse elements of the health care ecosystem, including developing treatments for infectious diseases that primarily affect people in the developing world; developing tools for financial inclusion; funding new hospitals and clinics; and providing vaccines and health supplies to children in low- and middle-income countries or disaster areas. With this approach, Merck can support a spectrum of innovations that can provide better health care for people in need now, and in the future.

Through 'Impact Investing', Merck is able to deploy financial resources in ways that may generate not only improved access to health care for underserved populations, but also financial returns and commercial opportunities, all while growing a sustainable global health ecosystem and attracting additional capital and partners. Merck intends to direct any financial returns from impact investments into other investments and corporate responsibility activities. Impact investing is unique in that it enables a financially sustainable business model to address the SDGs. Unlike philanthropy, impact investing is designed to generate financial proceeds due to the commercial success of the investment vehicle, which can only be achieved through the creation of successful and sustainable solutions. The very success of impact investing is based on its ability to deliver ongoing progress on the SDGs through mutually reinforcing social impact and financial return.

Impact investing is led by Merck's Office of Social Business Innovation with guidance from the Impact Investing Committee which was established in 2019.

Merck: Impact Investing

Merck engages in impact investing to advance global health through mutually-reinforcing social impact and financial return.

Social Impact	Enabling access to healthcare for millions of people
Financial Return	8 investments totaling $40M, generating market-rate returns
Business Opportunities	Enhancing the healthcare ecosystem in underserved areas

SDG 1: No Poverty   SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being   SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

Source: Merck

This cross-functional Impact Investing Committee is comprised of senior executives that review new investments in line with established policies and guidelines and monitors the financial and social returns of the impact portfolio. Notably, the Impact Investing Committee operates separately from its corporate responsibility and philanthropy organization, ensuring a high standard of governance and oversight. Merck's impact investing efforts helped fuel the creation of the Innovative Finance Exchange, a grassroots platform through which Merck's Social Business Innovation and Global Market Access teams convene colleagues from across the enterprise to share best practices gleaned through impact investing and other novel approaches to expand access to healthcare.

To date, Merck's CEO has authorized the allocation of $50 million towards the program, with $39 million currently committed across seven investment funds that aim to address SDGs 1, 3 and 17. In June 2020, Merck joined HealthQuadII, an India-based fund investing in early stage companies improving the affordability, accessibility and quality of healthcare services, including technology-backed models such as telemedicine, portable medical devices and digital solutions of increasing relevance in the COVID-19 context. In 2019 Merck made three impact investments: LeapFrog Emerging Consumer Fund III, focused on businesses providing healthcare services and products to low- and middle-income consumers in emerging markets; TEAMFund, which is expanding access to medical technologies in India and sub-Saharan Africa; and Adjuvant Global Health Technology Fund, addressing infectious diseases, maternal and newborn health and nutrition. In 2018 Merck invested in the UNICEF Bridge Fund, a loan fund which provides critical healthcare commodities to children in limited-resource settings and in disaster areas.
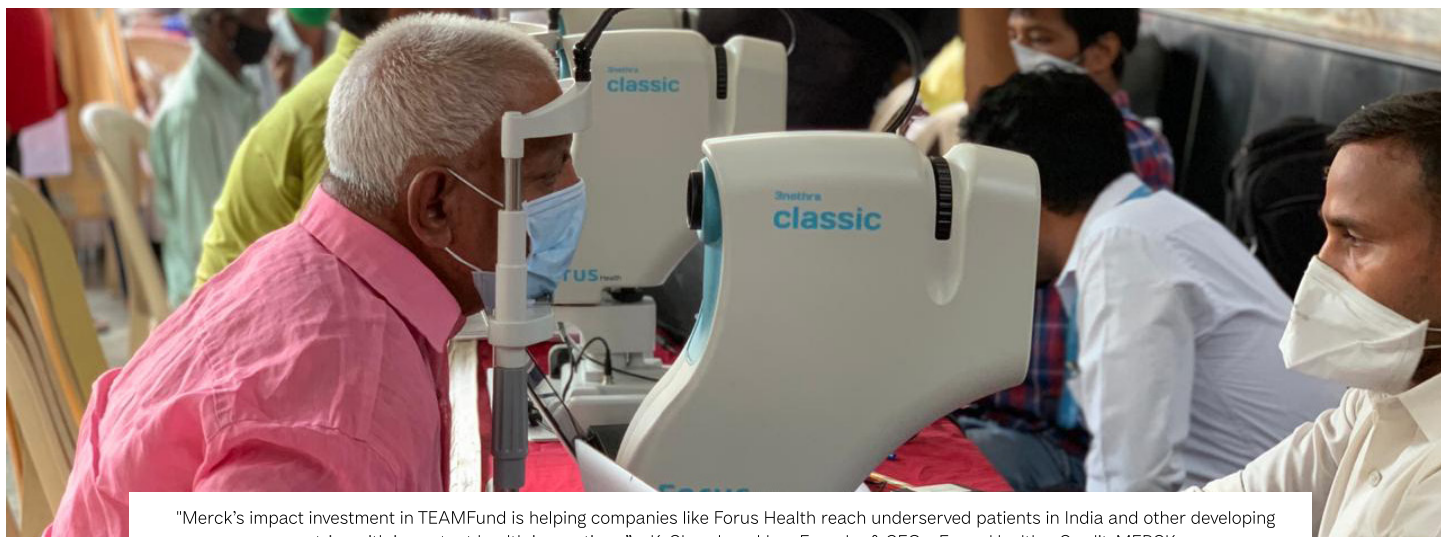
"Merck's impact investment in TEAMFund is helping companies like Forus Health reach underserved patients in India and other developing countries with important health innovations." – K. Chandrasekhar, Founder & CEO – Forus Health – Credit: MERCK

Merck consistently measures how its investments are helping to save and improve lives, and the value its program brings back to support its goals. In 2019 alone, Merck's impact investments helped more than 16 million people worldwide through diverse health interventions, including thousands of people served through Goodlife Pharmacy, now the largest retail pharmacy across East Africa; millions of doses of vaccines delivered with the support of the UNICEF Bridge Fund, for polio, tetanus, and other diseases; and thousands of patients receiving care at high-quality clinics and hospitals. Merck determines its total reach by aggregating data reported by each fund. Importantly, all metrics Merck receive from the funds and use within its calculations are independently validated by third-party groups or committees. Merck expects that interest and activity in impact investing as a tool to advance the SDGs will continue to grow as the model proves itself to be sustainable and delivering impact.

COVID-19 Impact

In the near term, Merck's LeapFrog investment for companies engaged in financial inclusion enables underserved populations to use financial mechanisms that traditionally might be out of reach. Examples include payment systems and health insurance, that provide people with the type of resilience they need when they need it. Furthermore, Merck opted to forgive the interest payments due through its position in the UNICEF Bridge Fund, enabling UNICEF to re-deploy those funds to support COVID-19 response and pandemic preparedness. In the long term, Merck's investments into funds focused on RandD for drugs and vaccines are supporting companies in their pivot to address COVID-19. For example, in the Adjuvant Global Health Technology Fund, one company, Codagenix, is working on a vaccine candidate that optimizes the immune response without generating clinical symptoms.

The Postgraduate Fellowship in Migrant and Refugee Health

SNAPSHOT

Geographical coverage: Bangladesh

Entity Name: Doctors Worldwide (doctorsworldwide.org)

Entity Type: Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)

Implementation period: 1 January 2018 - 31 July 2021

Key stakeholders and partnerships: International Non-Governmental Organizations; Non- Governmental Organizations; Governmental Organizations; and local healthcare workers

Relevant SDGs:

Click to learn more:

sdgs.un.org/partnerships/postgraduate-fellowship-migrant-and-refugee-health

BRIEF SUMMARY

The Postgraduate Fellowship in Refugee and Migrant Health (PGF) is a medical capacity building program, implemented by Doctors Worldwide, for local healthcare workers serving in humanitarian settings to improve their clinical practice. It targets those who have not received training to meet the healthcare needs of a refugee population and is centered around the delivery of eight independent humanitarian medicine modules, alongside clinical mentoring. The PGF began in 2017 when Doctors Worldwide (DWW) identified a need to invest in the local health response through comprehensive training of Bangladeshi medical doctors serving Rohingya refugees and host communities. As 90% of first responders in any crisis are local people, DWW recognized the sustainable and urgent need to empower the national healthcare workforce responding to the Rohingya crisis. DWW's aim is to not only benefit the immediate needs of a humanitarian crisis, but to double-up the impact by accelerating the learnings of the national healthcare workforce to be applied to improve the overall health system of Bangladesh. Its approach has improved quality of care, increased confidence, built a medical community, and demonstrated leadership in the clinics.

Twenty-six expert faculty doctors were deployed by DWW relating to primary care, emergency medicine, pediatrics, maternal health, gender-based violence and mental health. Their role was to share knowledge and skills with PGF doctors while simultaneously mentoring them on an individual basis. DWW reached 36 International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGO), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO), and Governmental Organizations across trained cohorts.

Practical sessions are a large component of the PGF specifically for emergency care skills as primary care doctors are usually the first point of contact in any medical emergency within the camps. Credit: DWW, 2019

In total, PGF has trained 129 medical doctors over five cohorts since January 2018. Over 986,400 patient consultations with doctors trained through the PGF have taken place. 260 sessions of clinical mentorship opportunities in the camps have been conducted. DWW has conducted over 1,839 workplace-based assessments. It has also distributed over 772 additional professional certificates achieved including the Minimum Initial Service Package for Reproductive Health and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine Health in Humanitarian Crises online course, among others. DWW has completed 201 sessions (787 hours) of clinical shadowing and mentorship within camp clinics and a further 172 sessions of teaching conducted at the DWW medical faculty.

DWW recently added an eighth module to the PGF titled 'Leadership and Governance' designed to address the leadership and management of quality healthcare within a humanitarian setting which included audits, people management, and teaching theories for shared learning and 'Training of the Trainers'. As a result of the module and its introduction, DWW has trained an additional cohort of 55 clinical leaders covering 37 clinics and representing 14 iNGO, NGOs and GOs. This has benefited the 2,915 staff they manage in the work setting.

129 Medical Doctors Trained

986,400 Patient Consultations Benefited

20% Average Increase In Knowledge Demonstrated By Each Participant

Creation Of A Clinical Support Group For Bangladeshi Doctors **209**

36 NGOs, iNGOs And GOs Represented Across Trained Cohorts

260 Clinical Shadowing Sessions (1040 Hours)

722 Additional Professional Certificates Achieved

1,839 workplace-based assessments recorded

34 Medical Experts Deployed To Teach The Programme In-person

172 Sessions (525 Hours) Of Teaching Conducted

DWW infographic. Credit: DWW

PGF Participants have reported that they were able to apply PGF learnings in their clinical settings, for example, by applying multiple life-saving to patients, and screening specialized cases such as mental and psychosocial health from a primary care perspective. PGF has also had a sustainable impact in that it has built a stronger community of Bangladeshi medical doctors. More than 30-40% of participants are now in clinical management roles representing UN and international agencies, local agencies and playing a crucial role in wider surveillance, policy and system strengthening activities despite joining the crisis as junior doctors three years ago.

DWW had previously implemented program in Rakhine State in Myanmar and as such has a strong contextual understanding of the crisis. Constraints include implementing an intensive educational program in a humanitarian context and the need to adapt continually to changing environments. It is thought that this program is the longest and most comprehensive training offered to medical doctors in the Rohingya camps from 2017 until today. The program is designed to be adapted for other settings, including in refugee camps in other locations, to support the 2030 Agenda of achieving good health and well-being for all. One of the greatest impacts is on the healthcare workforce trained, who indicated that the PGF was a direct result of the leadership and management positions they now hold. These doctors will go on to be the future clinical leaders in the country thus supporting the wider health system and creating a sustainable approach that builds back better.

COVID-19 Impact

The PGF curriculum and content has been adapted to incorporate best practice and learning in managing COVID-19 patients, which helps to 'build back better' by providing doctors with essential skills and knowledge to provide better clinical care during the pandemic. By improving doctor confidence, doctors feel better prepared to respond to crises. All COVID-19 precautions are in place for the clinical shadowing and teaching aspects of the project to ensure safety of all involved. DWW aims to roll out the PGF globally in similar settings to support local health responses.

CHAPTER II

AFRICA:
RURAL INCLUSION, ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Traditional weavers in Qena building up stocks to explore new markets.

Source: **UELDP**

Upper Egypt Local Development Program (UELDP)

BRIEF SUMMARY

In 2016, Egypt launched its Sustainable Development Strategy 'Vision 2030', reflecting the global 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda adapted to the local context. Geographical disparities threatened the achievement of Egypt's vision 2030, as well as its contribution to the SDGs. Lack of sustainable growth opportunities and poor access to services were strongly manifested in ten governorates in Upper Egypt. Sohag and Qena figured as two of the poorest Governorates. In line with Articles 27, 176, 236 of the 2014 Egyptian Constitution highlighting the importance of the development of rural and upper Egypt, the Government of Egypt and the World Bank launched the Upper Egypt Local Development Program (UELPD) in 2017, which was piloted in these Governorates.

UELDP was instrumental in the Government of Egypt's efforts to reduce disparities and localize sustainable development. Implementation required inter-ministerial collaboration; whereas the international partnerships secured funding and developed operational mechanisms. Local Government empowerment enhanced matching community needs and boosted water, sanitation, connectivity, industrialization, local economic development, employment generation and waste management services. UELDP inspired national policy actions to reduce disparities and mobilized resources for the development of more than 1500 villages across Egypt.

Under the guidance of the Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee, UELDP enhanced Local economic development and service delivery by expanding Local Governments' mandates. It established Local Implementation Units (LIU) in each Governorate to facilitate participatory investment planning and implementation of Annual Investment Plans. LIUs were supported by Local Economic Councils (LEC) comprising of members from the private sector.

LIUs' capacities were built in community consultations, Public Capital Expenditure Planning, procurement and contract management, environmental and social risk management to allow them to invest in sectors beyond their traditional scope. Additional capacity building efforts in spatial planning, asset management, engineering design and supervision are underway to improve planning. Disbursement-Linked indicators were jointly developed by Government of Egypt and the World Bank to sharpen the focus of monitoring and encourage results-based management at local level.

Through four planning cycles, more than 3700 projects were implemented. In collaboration with Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (MPED), UELDP introduced a formula-based allocation system for public capital expenditure. The formula was the result from joint efforts between Ministries of Finance, Local Development, and MPED. It accounted for population, urbanization level, and poverty-levels to determine governorates budget allocation. In 2018, MPED issued a Ministerial decree roll-out the formula-based allocation system in all 27 Governorates of Egypt. This action resulted in the mobilization of resources directed to the poorest Governorates and inspired the initiation of the 'Decent Life' Program in 2019. Funded entirely by the Government of Egypt, 'Decent Life' is working on developing the basic services in more than 1500 of the poorest villages across Egypt.

Joint efforts yielded 340% increase in public capital investments to the poorest Governorates reaching 1.85 billion USD. Results indicate improved connectivity, with more than 288 km of roads built and paved. Industrial infrastructure upgrades gave rise to 12% increase in industrial zones occupancy. Service improvement was marked by 232 km of drinking water networks, 18 sewage pumping stations, 9.5 km of irrigation canals upgrade, solar power plant, installation of

Traditional weavers in Qena building up stocks to explore new markets. Credit: UELDP

11200 lighting poles, 278 km of insulated wires and ground lines and the establishment of 27 firefighting and 8 traffic units in more than 138 villages. As a result, poverty fell by 1.06% and 3.79% in urban and rural Upper Egypt respectively compared to levels recorded in 2017/2018.

Following the increase in public capital investments directed to Sohag and Qena, the two Governorates witnessed a boost in connectivity, industrial infrastructure and availability of services. Capitalizing on such achievements and their positive impacts on the local business environment, UELPD initiated the second phase of its operations that focus on the development of local economic clusters in the two Governorates, namely, furniture, molasses, agribusiness and handicrafts. In October 2021, producers from Sohag and Qena showcased their newly developed products in a national exhibition. In the inauguration ceremony, the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt hailed the artisans and producers of Egypt and all efforts aimed at reviving the traditional crafts and activities that reflect the cultural diversity of the Egyptian civilization.

COVID-19 Impact

Following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, a swift emergency plan was put in motion to enhance the local health system resilience, support preventive measures and alleviate the economic impacts caused by lockdowns. UELDP facilitated an interagency agreement between the Governorates and the Ministry of Health to increase local hospitals' receptive capacities and medical equipment and supplies. After a brief interruption, the program promptly shifted to new tools to resume its support through virtual meetings and trainings. Immediate actions to support the participation of local businesses and in local exhibitions helped alleviate the cashflow crunch caused by the downturn of economic activities.

To read about other good practices submitted by the Egyptian Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, please access the SDG Good Practices Online Database.

Sprouting Entrepreneurs

BRIEF SUMMARY

Sprouting Entrepreneurs is a garden-based entrepreneurship education program for public schools in South Africa. The program was developed to address challenges relating to education (both general and Technical and Vocational Education and Training), youth unemployment and food insecurity. The school-based Entrepreneurship Learning Garden serves as a medium of learning through which financial, social, cultural, ecological and civic value for others is created.

Through Sprouting Entrepreneurs, learners identify a community-based opportunity or need. They develop an idea and turn it into action in the context of the garden. For example, production of food and compost for sale, support for food-insecure households, conservation, and awareness-raising for community-related issues. By working on these challenges, learners gain a deeper insight into sustainable development and their potential role as change-makers, while understanding their own agency limits as well as government responsibility and accountability. A three-year subject curriculum for public schools has been made available, which is aimed at education for sustainable development through the lens of entrepreneurship education. The notion of entrepreneurship education expands beyond a narrow business-scope and aims at the development of civil society agents with an entrepreneurial mindset for sustainable and global citizenship.

Teachers are trained as groups of 10 schools which form communities of practice (CoPs). Selection of schools, coordination and support of CoPs is secured through a subject adviser as the local education district. Teacher training consists of 78 training hours including a practical project. Parallel to the teacher training, the subject is introduced as a pilot at schools.

Sprouting Entrepreneurs in the garden. Credit: Matthias Forcher-Mayr

At schools, Entrepreneurship Learning Garden coordinators monitor the implementation of the subject and the development of an annual class-based teaching plan which ensures cross-curricular integration of entrepreneurship education as well as garden-based learning for sustainable development. Each class completes two value-creation projects per year. Examples include, growing of organic vegetables and seedlings for sale at a pop-up market; mapping and clearing of invasive plants in the community; production and distribution of Ubuntu-food-parcels to food-insecure households; and workshops on organic compost making at the local community hall.

Sprouting Entrepreneurs planning collaboratively. Credit: Shorai Moffat

At the school level, the program has been implemented at 50 schools impacting 30,000 learners. The program has contributed to integrating the theme of entrepreneurship education into subjects across the curriculum. Entrepreneurship Learning Gardens have become a medium of instruction for various subjects. Through this, SDGs-based teaching has increased. Pedagogical and thematic focus had a positive impact on teachers' motivation. At the system level, the program has contributed to the further development of the concept of entrepreneurship education in the South African school system based on a focus on the SDGs and sustainable and global citizenship. From the global perspective, the concept of the program has been included in the Austrian Entrepreneurship Education Map published by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Digital and Economic Affairs and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research and has thus impacted on the development of entrepreneurship education for sustainable development in the EU.

The program is replicable in any country. In the Global South, challenges addressed through the program present themselves more obviously such as food insecurity. There, its potential scope ranges from primary and secondary school, community gardens, agricultural TVET to education in refugee settings. Equally, the program can be implemented in every Global North setting as it supports the development of entrepreneurial spirit for sustainable and global citizenship in support of the SDGs. The financial input is very low and can easily be covered by financial value creation exercise per year, such as market day.

Since 2021, Sprouting Entrepreneurs has been rolled out in the province of KwaZulu-Natal in partnership with the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education and INNOBIZ, Centre for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at Durban University of Technology. Further pilots are scheduled to be implemented in Uganda and other South African provinces. In Austria, teacher trainings which focus on the implementation of the program in Austria are planned for 2021. The teacher manual can be freely downloaded. Articles in peer-reviewed education journals aim at sharing the practice further.

COVID-19 Impact
The program was impacted by the closure of schools and the reduction of contact hours at school. Teaching was interrupted and Entrepreneurship Learning Gardens (ESL) could not be sustained. The training of new schools slowed down as trainings could not take place physically and teachers did not have access to the internet or hardware to participate in online training. With the vaccination of teachers and the re-opening of the schools, work has resumed. COVID-19 increased unemployment, poverty and food insecurity. Through Entrepreneurship Learning Gardens (ESL) schools are able to produce food for their school-based nutrition programs at a low cost to combat the challenges. In addition, the imparted knowledge and practice on learners supports the establishment of home-based gardens which can assist to reduce the food expenditure of households.

EU-UNCTAD Joint Program for Angola: Train for Trade II

SNAPSHOT

Geographical coverage: Angola

Entity Name: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
(unctad.org/project/eu-unctad-joint-programme-angola-train-trade-ii)

Entity Type: United Nations/ Multilateral Body

Implementation period: 1 May 2017 – 31 July 2023

Key stakeholders and partnerships: National government; regional and local government; private sector; industry associations; NGOs; academia; entrepreneurs; small-scale producers

Relevant SDGs:

Click to learn more:
sdgs.un.org/partnerships/eu-unctad-joint-programme-angola-train-trade-ii-building-back-better-through

BRIEF SUMMARY

The EU-UNCTAD Joint Program for Angola: Train for Trade II supports the diversification of the Angolan economy and exports by strengthening institutional and human resources capacity, identifying non-oil green products and facilitating integration into regional and global economy to enable sustainable revenue generation for achieving the SDGs. Angola is an LDC which is heavily dependent on oil, making it extremely vulnerable to external shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic. The multisector Program contributes to most SDGs by comprehensively building productive capacities for sustainable diversification. It has triggered a whole-of-society culture, facilitating improved, mutually coherent policies. The Program simultaneously strengthens national capacities to identify and develop green products and services in agriculture and creative industries to help diversify Angola's economy and exports; adapt transport infrastructure to new industries; facilitate sustainable investment to develop them; negotiate better trade agreements to secure market access and necessary protection; enable trade facilitation reforms to encourage transactions and train entrepreneurs to take advantage of opportunities. There is a particular focus on the participation of women and small producers to create equality through economic empowerment.

The Program was designed through a comprehensive consultative process in Angola, involving government ministries, agencies, provinces, private sector, industry associations, NGOs and academia. A national technical committee composed of key ministries and agencies, UNCTAD and the EU was set up to monitor activity implementation and a minister-led steering committee established to provide political guidance. A national coordinator was placed in Luanda in the coordinating agency, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MINDCOM), and a project manager in UNCTAD in Geneva.

A capacity building training organized for 200 coffee and tropical fruits producers in the Uíge province in November 2019. Credit: UNCTAD

The steering committee approves yearly workplans prepared by the technical committee in line with the Program's results framework. Activities are further refined with national implementing partners.

The identification and invitation of training participants is coordinated by MINDCOM. A mirror management structure is in place in UNCTAD, integrating several divisions' work. Regular coordination meetings are held to monitor implementation and exchange on lessons learned. Progress reports reporting results against the LogFrame are provided both to the national management structures and the donor. The Program's MandE plan foresees a mid-term review and a final evaluation. The Program has undergone evaluations coordinated by the EU and Multilateral Organization Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN). The original budget of EUR 5.5 million was increased to EUR 6.3 million in December 2020 through an additional investment by the EU, and implementation period extended to July 2023.

The multisector Program has triggered a whole-of-society culture, facilitating coherent policies. By integrating vulnerable groups as valuable contributors to development, it has stimulated leave-no-one-behind-attitude. Together with green sector focus and support to diversification to reduce vulnerabilities, it contributes to most SDGs. The Program has helped draft better policies, including investment policy and investment agreements reviews; Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) regulations; and draft strategies for the creative economy, entrepreneurship, trade facilitation and trade policy, and train entrepreneurs to reap opportunities. Exports to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries have increased since 2016, while the pandemic has slightly reduced the share of non-oil exports. Results have been achieved by training so far 1,900 Angolans; training trainers; developing green products and services; helping attract investment and design PPPs for transport infrastructure; building institutions for new tasks; supporting policy review and development.

As a result of the EU-UNCTAD Joint Program for Angola: Train for Trade II, UNCTAD was requested to take up the technical lead position in delivering UN system support to the Government of Angola to draft a smooth transition strategy in view of the country's upcoming graduation from LDC status and to facilitate its graduation with momentum towards the achievement of SDGs. The analytical pieces required for the process (GA mandated Vulnerability Profile, National Productive Capacities Gap Assessment and a study on the impacts of COVID-19) are being finalized for further consultations with the Government.

COVID-19 Impact

The Program's objective of building back better through a diversified, green economy revealed itself more pertinent than ever during the pandemic which triggered a major shock on the economy dependent on only one commodity, leading to reversal of some SDG gains. Implementation was greatly impacted by travel bans and restrictions to presential meetings. Even so, the Program found innovative ways to provide capacity building in hybrid format, via online platforms and online trainings, which are being integrated in a comprehensive e-learning site. Trainings included cross-regional experience-sharing elements on COVID-19 mitigation strategies for enterprises and public institutions. National trainers were mobilized to deliver trainings with a video-link to international master trainers.
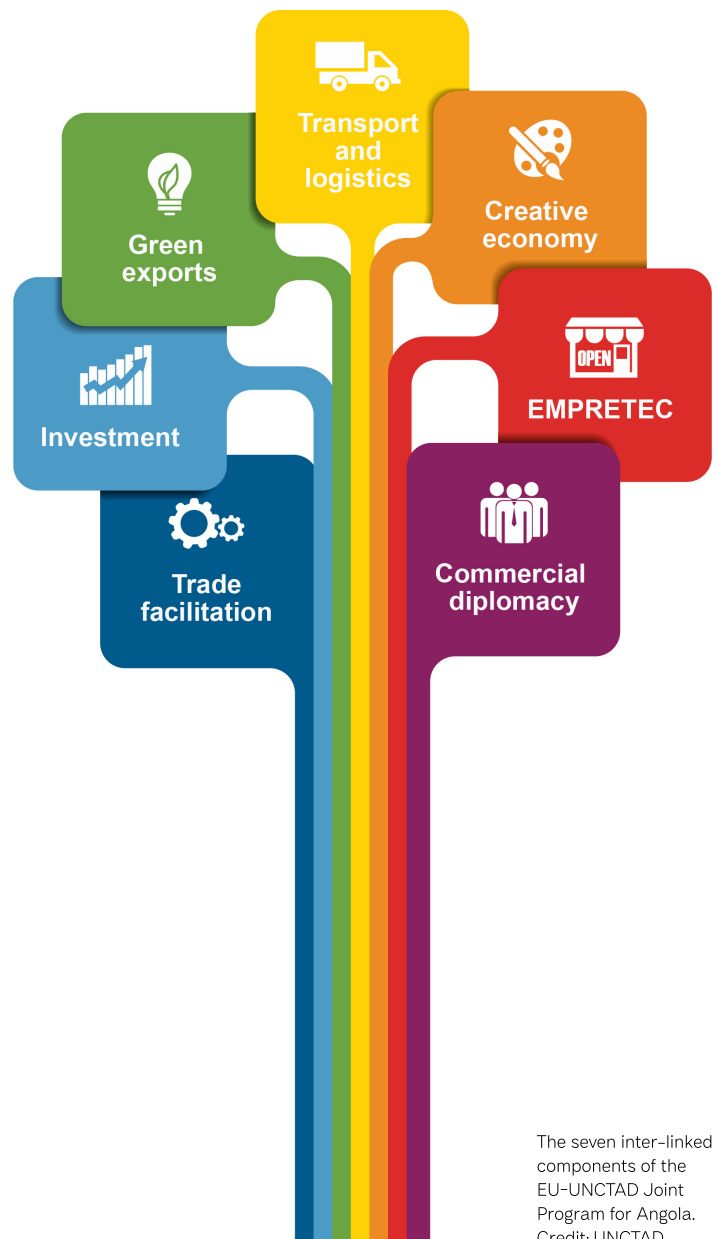
The seven inter-linked components of the EU-UNCTAD Joint Program for Angola. Credit: UNCTAD

RecyclesPay Educational Project

SNAPSHOT

Geographical coverage: Nigeria

Entity Name: African Cleanup Initiative (acuinitiative.org)

Entity Type: Non-governmental organization (NGO)

Implementation period: 6 December 2018 – 31 January 2030

Key stakeholders and partnerships: National government; regional and local government; private sector; recycling institutions; local schools; and low-income communities

Relevant SDGs: 1 NO POVERTY; 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING; 4 QUALITY EDUCATION; 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION; 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES; 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES; 13 CLIMATE ACTION; 14 LIFE BELOW WATER; 15 LIFE ON LAND; 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Click to learn more:
sdgs.un.org/partnerships/recyclespay-educational-project

BRIEF SUMMARY

The RecyclesPay Educational project is a 'Plastic-For-Tuition' project implemented by the African Cleanup Initiative. Its goal is to pay the tuition fees of over 10,000 vulnerable students by the year 2030. This program is targeted at low-income communities, to provide parents with an opportunity to pay their ward's school fees using plastic bottles and other recyclable materials like cans, paper, sachet, glass bottles and Nylon. It ensures children from underprivileged communities remain in school, identifying new ways to prevent plastic waste from littering the environment and promoting sustainable living amongst vulnerable groups and communities.

The project integrates environmental, economic and social indicators by reaching communities without access to proper waste management systems, establishing a sustainable system where plastic waste and other waste forms are recovered from the source while empowering parents, schools and children. The project also reaches out to the general public to make donations to schools under the program using household generated recyclable materials, thereby, promoting open communication and connection between community members and the general public as everyone is made to see that educating every child is everyone's responsibility. This further helps accelerate progress towards sustainable development goals as communities are made to work together towards educating their children and ending Plastic pollution.

The RecyclesPay Educational project started in December 2018 in Lagos, Nigeria to address increasing plastic pollution and the rising number of out-of-school children in Nigeria and other African countries. The program has led to more open conversations around education delivery between schools and communities which has opened up more communities to the fact that there is a need to not only increase the number of available schools but also the quality of education through periodic parent-teacher engagement.

Students and their teachers displaying their art (Trash to Treasure).
Credit: Recycles Pay Educational Project

The program is designed to address issues around environmental pollution and education by encouraging stakeholders in taking actions by educating vulnerable communities about the need to adopt responsible waste disposal methods and set up systems in these communities which enable the exchange of waste for value.

Team member loading plastic bottles into the truck after collection. Credit: Recycles Pay Educational Project

The RecyclesPay program is being executed in two phases. The first phase concentrated on adapting the waste-for-tuition model to respective community contexts. Pilots were set up in selected schools. The program aimed at contextualizing the approach for the specific setting of the respective community, identifying what works. This ensured there was a proper model in place before scaling up. The second phase focused on scaling up successful models within and outside the state, strengthening capacities of schools and communities, processes and increasing advocacy in more communities. Monitoring and research are core components of the RecyclesPay Program to keep implementation on track and to inform advocacy and decision-making.

In Nigeria, different studies have been conducted to monitor progress made in giving more children access to education, part of which is having money to pay for school supplies and tuition, according to UNICEF, the number of out-of-school children dropped from 13 million during the period where the project kickstarted to 10.5 million. The reduction is attributed to progress made in new initiatives like the RecyclesPay project, policy and other interventions which were introduced in recent years. After a survey done in schools, The RecyclesPay project in two years has 2,172 school children as direct beneficiaries with 50 schools on board. The project has also recovered 1,123,488 bottles and cans from the environment which amounts to 38,741 kg of recyclable waste.

Some of the project's enabling factors include the friendly policies on partnerships within the waste management space; available infrastructure (recycling hubs); funding from grants; access to the internet and tech tools for easy communication with beneficiaries and stakeholders. There have also been several constraints around logistics, such as organizing pickups from schools and communities that have poor road networks; multiple taxations; unstable national economic growth affecting prices of goods; thuggery; and the falling price of plastic waste due to trade wars; and access to more financing needed to make the project outcomes more impactful.

COVID-19 Impact

Project activity had to be reviewed as part of the control measures and infection prevention determined by the national authorities. School engagements were conducted via online mediums as schools were closed at the peak of the outbreak and physical project monitoring could not be executed as a result of lockdowns. The project adapted its programs to integrate COVID-19 infection prevention as part of program delivery. Protective materials were distributed to slum communities where information on COVID-19 was low. A project titled 'RecyclesPay COVID-19 support project' encouraged more community participation in recycling by doubling the price of plastic waste was introduced. This helped communities where access to funding for business or food was restricted due to lockdowns.

CHAPTER III

ASIA-PACIFIC:
STAKEHOLDER COOPERATION,
SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIPS

Installation of 20 ECOLOOs at UNESCO World Heritage sites in Jordan,
in a collaboration with UNDP Jordan, saved them from losing the title
given by UNESCO and saved over 10 million liters of water within one year.

Source: **ECOLOO Group**

Deqing County Rural Digital Governance System

SNAPSHOT

Geographical coverage: Deqing County, Zhejiang Province, China

Entity Name: Deqing Big Data Development Administration (deqing.gov.cn)

Entity Type: Regional / Local Government

Implementation period: 1 January 2019 – 31 December 2021

Key stakeholders and partnerships: Regional and local government; rural communities including farmers

Relevant SDGs:

Click to learn more:
sdgs.un.org/partnerships/development-deqing-county-rural-digital-governance-system

BRIEF SUMMARY

Deqing County in Zhejiang, China, aims to make full use of big data and digital technology with geographical information at its core. It uses digital concepts and methods to intelligently explore its rural governance model by using 'one map' visualization tools. Deqing's objectives are to understand the use of rural space in order to enable better planning and development of rural industry, to enhance the quality of rural happiness, to promote the transformation of rural 'economy, life and ecology', to modernize rural governance, and to promote high-quality sustainable development.

In line with the objectives of the SDGs, Deqing plans to upgrade the rural information infrastructure and speed up the expansion of IoT (Internet of Things) and government services to the countryside. Deqing also plans to promote the development of the rural digital economy and the digital transformation of traditional industries; to accelerate the rural e-commerce product brand; and to form an intelligent rural logistics distribution system. By digitally managing rural natural resources, ecological environment and rural collective economy, Deqing hopes to improve farmers' digital literacy and eliminate the digital gap between urban and rural areas.

Wusi Village, Deqing County uses digital village practices.
Credit: Deqing County Rural Digital Governance System

Deqing collected 282 types of data from 58 departments, and shared real-time data from 15 systems, including spatiotemporal information and garbage classification. Using IoT, local villagers are guided through social insurance, medical registration, and online treatment systems. Deqing has built an interactive chain for people's livelihood governance and simplified channels to gather the opinions from rural villagers. Deqing has formed a closed-loop information processing and action mechanism which collects, assigns, handles and provides feedback for problem-solving. It has also created a new carrier for online social communication for villagers.

Wusi Village, Deqing County uses digital village practices.
Credit: Deqing County Rural Digital Governance System

Using 'one map and one window of digital villages', Deqing County identified over 100,000 problems relating to issues such as water quality change in 137 villages in 2020. Reporting times reduced by 86%. 'One map and one window' management of agricultural production identified a new mode of fish-breeding based on IoT, which allowed remote, real-time viewing of water quality and tail water treatment for farmers. This provided value-added services for 1,510 households of about 8,000 hectares of fishponds. Farmers have access to government services through their mobile devices rather than relying on on-site visits. With regard to health and pension related digital services, 97.2% of the questions raised by the farmers in the county were resolved in 2020. These services were also vital in the distribution of information in the context of COVID-19 pandemic prevention.

Sustainability is achieved through an institutional building, such as big data bureau, and the standardization of digital technology applications. The application of Deqing rural digital governance has been implemented in 137 villages within the county. China's first digital, rural, county-level standards and norms were issued. An 'Implementation Plan for Developing the Deqing County Rural Digital Governance Platform to Accelerate the Development of Digital Countryside' has been formulated to standardize its mechanism and operation. The practice has been shared and replicated domestically in provinces such as Zhejiang, Jiangsu, Sichuan, and Guangdong among others. It is thought that the practice could be extended to other areas within and outside of China.

COVID-19 Impact

The practice shows its vitality during COVID-19 pandemic. Combined with various epidemic prevention and control measures, the capability of the rural digital governance has been further improved. It has effectively prevented the occurrence of epidemic transmission, through timely checks of massive health information of the population. It has helped with the local labor market by data collection, analysis and sharing. An enterprise health punch system has been launched to allow employees to report on their own health status through their mobile phones. For farmers, necessities like masks, food, and local agricultural products can be ordered online

Map of a Digital Village. Credit: Deqing County Rural Digital Governance System

with home delivery services. The risk of crowd aggregation was effectively avoided, and agricultural products were more easily dispatched.

ECOLOO-Cleaner Water and Sustainable Sanitation for Greener and Healthier Future

SNAPSHOT

Geographical coverage: Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, India, Kenya, Somalia, Uganda, Sierra Leone, Chile, Peru, Canada, Sweden, Jordan, Sudan, Cook Islands

Entity Name: ECOLOO Greentech Malaysia SDN BHD (ecoloo.eu)

Entity Type: Private Sector

Implementation period: 1 March 2016 – 15 March 2016

Key stakeholders and partnerships: UN Agencies; national government; regional and local government; academia; public institutions; and NGOs

Relevant SDGs:

Click to learn more:

sdgs.un.org/partnerships/cleaner-water-sustainable-sanitation-greener-healthier-future

BRIEF SUMMARY

According to research by the World Toilet Organization, approximately 2.5 billion people do not have access to proper toilets and hygiene. This practice addresses the world's pressing water and sanitation challenges in areas that do not have any access to water, to septic tanks or to sewage treatment plants. ECOLOO MALAYSIA was established as an impact driven social enterprise, to develop sustainable solutions. ECOLOO is a stand-alone, decentralized, biological toilet technology that is eco-friendly, odorless, waterless, sewage-less, energy-free, hassle-free and maintenance-free. ECOLOO helps prevent sewage from being created and from contaminating ground water. It also helps to prevent the spread of air and water borne diseases. This practice not only ensures that ground water remains clean and safe but also saves gallons of clean water from being flushed and wasted. When sustainable toilets are made available to communities, it prevents open defecation, protects the environment, and ensures dignity.

ECOLOO's by-product is odor-free, pathogen-free and is rich with nutrients. ECOLOO employs a special formula to treat and break down solid waste into tiny particles and converts liquid waste into natural fertilizer.

ECOLOO Process. Credit: ECOLOO Group

The by-product is ideal for organic farming and therefore helps farmers with added-value natural fertilizer to ensure food security. The ECOLOO itself is made of fiber reinforced plastic, it is light yet durable and can be easily adapted, installed, moved and maintained. ECOLOO can be installed independently in remote areas, national parks, heritage sites, hill sides, riverbanks, waterfalls, islands, lakes, beaches, trains, buses, boats or floating houses in any climate condition.

Installation of 10 ECOLOOs at Kuala Lumpur 2017 SEA GAMES, in collaboration with Malaysian Ministry of Youth & Sports, helped the Government saving around 150,000 liters of water. Credit: ECOLOO Group

Since 2010, +2,500 toilets have been installed in more than 25 countries across 5 continents. Examples include, the installation of ECOLOOs in the Cook Islands (2019-2020) to promote biodiversity conservation, save the islands from being polluted due to sewage, and boost the tourism industry; the installation of 10 ECOLOOs at the Kuala Lumpur SEA GAMES in 2017, in collaboration with the Malaysian Ministry of Youth and Sports to help save around 150,000 liters of water; and the installation of 20 ECOLOOs in two schools for girls in Sierra Leone (2018-2019), in collaboration with Hope2Overcome NGO to support the improvement of girls' attendance and performance and provide them with safe places to exercise sanitary hygiene with dignity.

The outcome of this sustainable practice with ECOLOO has proven to be effective, practical and sustainable, be it in remote or urban areas, hot and cold climates, disaster relief or refugee camps. The demand for the ECOLOO solution is huge and this practice can be replicated to support the SDG implementation worldwide. ECOLOO Malaysia plans to extend its practice and encourage adoption of the practice across the rural communities and schools in countries where leaders have started to initiate toilet revolution and open defecation-free areas. ECOLOO Malaysia can create inclusive social businesses by transferring the know-how through Public-Private Partnerships (PPP). It plans to create awareness and provide training programs on technical skills, character building, financial building and sustainable business to create a circular economy for sustainable society.

COVID-19 Impact
COVID-19 has impacted the implementation of this practice as the organization is not able to travel and to present the product to countries who wish to collaborate. The only way to mitigate is to make sure that business is strategized while production is running, technology is improved, efficiency of bacteria is improved and more toilet designs are put in the pipeline. Despite these setbacks, ECOLOO has received an outstanding award from the International Federation of Inventors Association for 'Inventions vs COVID-19', as the practice's decentralized system prevents the virus from spreading. It also won the UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) SDGs Global Startup Competition in 2021 in the SDG 6 category. It is evident that ECOLOO can support efforts to build back better from COVID-19 impacts, especially as part of medical emergency relief.

SINERGI Project – Inclusive Approach to Open More Access for Vulnerable Groups

SNAPSHOT

Geographical coverage: Indonesia (Province of Central Java; Districts of Semarang, Boyolali, Demak, Kebumen, Rembang; Cities of Semarang and Surakarta)

Entity Name: Rajawali Foundation (rajawalifoundation.org)

Entity Type: Philanthropic Organization

Implementation period: 23 October 2017 – 29 September 2020

Key stakeholders and partnerships: USAID; Center for Public Policy Transformation; Central Java Provincial Government; private sector; NGOs; and youth coalitions

Relevant SDGs:

Click to learn more:

sdgs.un.org/partnerships/sinergi-project-inclusive-approach-open-more-access-vulnerable-groups-including-people

BRIEF SUMMARY

The SINERGI Project was implemented by the Rajawali Foundation, in partnership with USAID, the Center for Public Policy Transformation (Transformasi) and the Central Java Provincial Government. The objective of the project is to promote coordination between government, private sector, civil society, and youth organizations, to support poor and vulnerable young people in accessing the labor market. The project targets 18 to 34-year-olds, with a particular focus on young women and persons with disabilities. The SINERGI Project identified a need for improved multi-stakeholder coordination in Central Java, where people live in scattered areas and face significant obstacles to access educational and employment opportunities. The project also identified that training centers and companies needed to assess their teaching methods and working environments to support social inclusion. The SINERGI Project is deployed at multiple levels, from grassroots to the provincial level.

During the implementation of the SINERGI Project, the Rajawali Foundation coordinated with ministries at the national and provincial levels to ensure alignment with governmental targets to achieve the SDGs. An action-oriented working group (POKSI) comprising of governmental, private sector, youth, and training center representatives was established to work with the Rajawali Foundation.

Youth representatives at work. Credit: Rajawali Foundation

The action group identified beneficiaries by aligning the SINERGI Project with a local government program focused on poverty alleviation. Youth representatives within the action group were often encouraged to take the lead on activities to ensure representation. The action group co-designed innovative solutions, such as developing technical training modules at training centers, which were combined and aligned with apprenticeships in private sector companies. The SINERGI Project was regularly monitored with reports being shared with the local government, national government, and USAID.

Garment sewing technical traning. Banyumanik sub-district youth consortium'. Credit: Rajawali Foundation

The SINERGI Project found that the more they could align with governmental SDG priorities at local level, the more likely the components of its core program would be integrated into the local government budget. This was important for both short and medium-term strategic development planning. The SINERGI Project wanted to create exposure for its success stories in order to inspire other local leaders to adopt its programs. The success stories were captured in the Indonesia Voluntary National Review (VNR) report at the 2019 UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. The SINERGI Project identified that active participation from youth champions at grass root level was vital to its success. Private sector companies also become an important factor for replication and sustainability. Companies have the capacity to drive innovation and create better employment opportunities at scale, which in turn reduces inequalities. The SINERGI Project also found that programs designed based on collective goals from a variety of key actors are more sustainable in the long run.

More than 300 companies, 36 district-level and 41 village-level governments have been mobilized, and more than 15,000 youth have been reached. SINERGI has created new job opportunities for over 1,500 poor and vulnerable youth and supported more than 100 new entrepreneurs. As a result of this success, more training centers adopted the inclusive models established by the SINERGI project. In addition, more companies decided to develop their human resource policies to promote gender equality and social inclusion.

COVID-19 Impact

As a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, there was a significant reduction in low-skill labour roles. In response to this, the SINGERI Project program team along with youth representatives established an infrastructure of communication to gather real-time updates on the levels of employment at the grassroots level. The national government worked with youth representatives to identify beneficiaries for social assistance programs. Representatives from private sector companies, training centers and the youth representatives are now working together to train potential employees at the grassroots level.

Transforming Exploitation and Saving Through Association (TESTA)

SNAPSHOT

Geographical coverage: Eight districts across Maharashtra, India

Entity Name: Vipla Foundation's, Legal Name: Save The Children India (savethechildrenindia.org)

Entity Type: Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)

Implementation period: 2 February 2015 – 31 December 2021

Key stakeholders and partnerships: Government; regional and local government; police departments; prosecutors; judiciary; legal services; legal volunteers; social workers; and NGOs

Relevant SDGs:

| 5 GENDER EQUALITY | 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH | 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS | 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS |

Click to learn more:

sdgs.un.org/partnerships/testa-stakeholder-collective-address-sex-trafficking-enhancing-collaboration-and

BRIEF SUMMARY

Transforming Exploitation and Saving Through Association (TESTA) is a multi-stakeholder partnership intervention designed by Vipla Foundation (Legal Name: Save The Children India). Its purpose is to increase the number of convictions in trafficking cases in India and to protect women and children who are at risk of commercial sexual exploitation. In 2016, 10,815 persons were arrested under human trafficking charges in India. 159 were convicted. This represents a conviction rate of 1.5%.

A study conducted by Vipla Foundation, 'Socio-Legal Factors Impacting Prosecution of Trafficking Crimes in Maharashtra', recommended that multi-stakeholder collaboration was necessary to ensure the engagement of victims throughout the prosecution process. The concept of TESTA was therefore based on a 'Collective Impact Model', whereby the commitment of a group of actors from different sectors was secured using structured means of collaboration. Vipla Foundation also drew findings from a study titled the 'Prosecution of Trafficking Crimes in Maharashtra', which outlined the experiences of 60 stakeholders engaged in 20 criminal court cases. The study highlighted both the social and legal factors that can impact the success or failure of a prosecution. Vipla Foundation became aware of the various actors engaged in the anti-trafficking ecosystem and the lack of collaboration between them.

Collaboration. Credit: Vipla Foundation

In response, TESTA brought together governmental representatives from the Ministry of Women and Child Development, police department, prosecution service, and judiciary, as well as lawyers associated with the District Legal Services Authority, the District Child Protection Unit, rehabilitation and housing offices, and various NGOs to form a stakeholder group. The collective was supported and coordinated by a TESTA project team which comprised of lawyers, social workers and case managers. This group of actors meets every month to discuss cases and interventions. Using a case management approach, it tracks and monitors the development of each case systematically. The levels of engagement of sex trafficking victims with the various professional stakeholders is monitored continuously by a monitoring and evaluation team.

Advocacy. Credit: Vipla Foundation

There have been a number of positive results following the implementation of TESTA. The creation of exclusive courts to conduct sex trafficking trials in particular districts in India, has brought more perpetrators to justice. Victim Protection Rooms have been created within court premises, which means that victim witnesses are segregated from defendants at court and have the confidence to give evidence during trials. Victims of sex-trafficking now receive legal assistance from government empaneled lawyers. These lawyers also assist in prosecution of offenders in sex-trafficking cases. The conviction rate in such cases has increased to 25% since the intervention of the pilot scheme. Repeat offenders can now be more easily identified. It has also meant that the cycles of victims who are repeatedly trafficked can more easily be broken. The Vipla Foundation also notes that fewer defendants are now granted bail.

The TESTA model is now being replicated in 10 other districts across the state of Maharashtra, India. Vipla Foundation will soon publish the 'Process Documentation of the Pilot Model' and disseminate it to government offices and Civil Society Organizations to replicate the model and its best practices even further. Vipla Foundation considers that the involvement of government representatives is vital to ensure sustained commitment to this cause. With that in mind, the responsibility for engagement with the TESTA stakeholder collective rests with each relevant government departments, rather than the individual. This ensures that when a governmental representative changes office or retires, it automatically becomes the responsibility of the succeeding officer to represent the department in the TESTA stakeholder group. The Vipla Foundation is taking steps towards the institutionalization of the model within the broader government system to ensure its sustainability and continuity.

COVID-19 Impact
COVID-19 and the subsequent lockdown imposed in India meant that national priorities were focused on health, which temporarily impacted the work of TESTA. The TESTA team pivoted to use different technology platforms to provide a virtual interface between the members of the stakeholder group and guarantee ongoing discussions of the sex-trafficking cases. COVID-19 meant that women and girls were more vulnerable than ever to violence and sex-trafficking. As a result, TESTA sought permission from various authorities to expedite interventions on behalf of victims. TESTA also revised a training module for the stakeholder group including experiential learning using behavior change communication techniques.

CHAPTER IV

EUROPE:
DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION, GRASSROOT INSPIRATION

Recovered marine waste from the Mediterranean Sea

Source: **Enaleia**

International Center for Statistical Expertise (Centrostat)

SNAPSHOT

Geographical coverage: Russia

Entity Name: Federal State Statistic Service, Ministry of Economic Development, Russian Federation (eng.rosstat.gov.ru/)

Entity Type: Government

Implementation period: 20 October 2021 – ongoing

Key stakeholders and partnerships: United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP); World Bank; Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP); United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); International and national expert statisticians; private sector; academia; and NGOs

Relevant SDGs:

Click to learn more:
sdgs.un.org/partnerships/international–center–statistical–expertise–centrostat

BRIEF SUMMARY

Centrostat is a unique educational and consulting platform based in Russia which is contributing to the development of official statistics, statistical literacy, formation of monitoring indicators for the SDGs, and strengthening international statistical capacity. It unites Russian and international experts and has become a modern platform for training, consulting and development assistance in the field of statistics. Centrostat was established as a result of a joint project between the Federal State Statistics Service of Russia, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the World Bank and the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP). The Centrostat team is comprised of leading experts from national statistical offices, international organizations and universities.

Services offered by Centrostat include online and offline courses, international projects for improving statistical capacity, pilot projects for the development and implementation of new statistical methodology, consulting, development of official statistics skills among producers and users of statistics, as well as statistical literacy project in Russia and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Centrostat therefore serves as a platform for building mutually beneficial partnerships not only to achieve the SDGs, but also in terms of developing new data sources, harmonizing statistical classifiers, promoting stronger institutions, and data availability and digitalization.
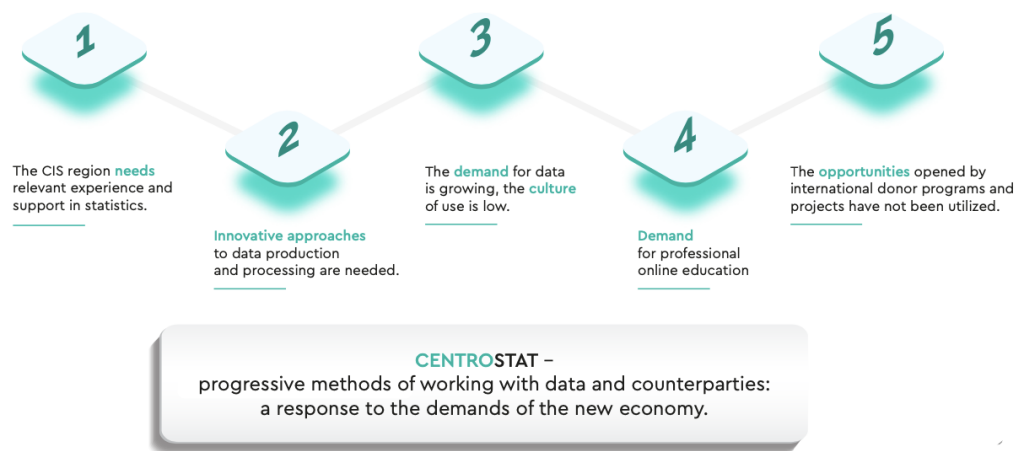

Centrostat Opening Ceremony. Credit: Centrostat

The objective of Centrostat is to provide support for monitoring of the SDGs through quality and disaggregated data; promotion of internationally comparable data for SDGs monitoring; contribution to innovative methods for data production, collection and analysis both within national statistical offices and all relevant international agencies; innovative approach to statistics as an inclusive tool available for everybody; promotion of statistical literacy among population; and to support key decision-making.

Centrostat has tested its online training platform and launched online pilot courses and several projects with ESCAP and UNFPA on demographic statistics. In a joint project with ESCAP, Centrostat launched several initiatives, including e-learning courses, webinars on environmental-economic accounting and system of national accounting, as well as the Young Statistician Forum for Central Asia. In collaboration with UNFPA two seminars on migration statistics have been held. Centrostat held a 4-day online training on the

WHY IS CENTROSTAT RELEVANT?

1. The CIS region **needs** relevant experience and support in statistics.

2. **Innovative approaches** to data production and processing are needed.

3. The **demand** for data is growing, the **culture** of use is low.

4. **Demand** for professional online education

5. The **opportunities** opened by international donor programs and projects have not been utilized.

CENTROSTAT – progressive methods of working with data and counterparties: a response to the demands of the new economy.

Credit: Centrostat

Global Conference on Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) with Eurasian Economic Commission and the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD). Centrostat became a co-organizer of the International Moscow Road to Bern event to support the UN World Data Forum 2021. Several UNSD handbooks and guidelines on different fields of statistics have been updated for Russian-speaking audience, as well as 'Statistics 4.0' and 'Governing-by-the-numbers/Statistical governance: Reflections on the future of official statistics in a digital and globalized society' by Walter Radermacher.

During the first year of operation, Centrostat has been recognized among the international and Russian expert community as an effective tool for promotion of competencies in different fields of statistics, including SDGs, innovative technologies, big data and censuses. It has managed to expand its partner and expert network and to launch new regional and international initiatives. Long-term results will help to develop an integrated platform for statistical knowledge, promotion of new solutions for official statistics, consulting, training and expertise services for various stakeholders. Centrostat promotes partner network development and international statistical capacity. Moreover, it is a center for statistical regional and international initiatives, incubator for statistical services and products and a tool for improving statistical literacy. A database of Centrostat experts has also been created.

The Centrostat project will be able to be scaled to other countries and regions to support SDG monitoring, harmonize statistical indicators, improve official statistics, develop partnerships, and promote the exchange of expertise. Centrostat hopes to pilot the platform on behalf of the CIS region, given that their statistical systems and projected tasks have much in common. A network of independent international centers for statistical expertise will allow for joint efforts to solve current problems, reduce costs in the exchange of information and expertise, and increase the level of statistical literacy of the population.

COVID-19 Impact

The launch of the initiative in October 2020 was held in compliance with measures for prevention of COVID-19, adopted in the country and in the world. Offline events, planned early last year, including the opening ceremony and a series of practical trainings and seminars, were taken online. However, the launch took place on schedule, with the participation of an international team of experts. The impact of COVID-19 has meant that events, seminars and training sessions have been hosted virtually.

BOOST Civil Society Technology Challenge

SNAPSHOT

Geographical coverage: Turkey

Entity Name: Koç Holding (koc.com.tr)

Entity Type: Private Sector

Implementation period: 1 October 2020 – 31 January 2022

Key stakeholders and partnerships: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); government; private sector, in particular start-ups; small and mid-size enterprises; and civil society organizations

Relevant SDGs:

Click to learn more:
sdgs.un.org/partnerships/boost-civil-society-technology-challenge

BRIEF SUMMARY

The COVID-19 crisis makes adapting to the new normal and transforming ways of operation a critical necessity for civil society organizations (CSOs). Koç Holding and UNDP have joined forces to accelerate the digital transformation of CSOs in Turkey in order to increase their impact and outreach. In line with this objective, the primary goal of the Boost Civil Society Technology Challenge is to mobilize tools, expertise and networks to accelerate the use of digital technologies during this transformation. With BOOST, CSOs gain the necessary first-hand experience to design, implement and adapt their work to the digital realm through a specific solution.

According to the Third Sector Foundation of Turkey, a majority of CSOs stated that 70% of the events, 60% of trainings, and nearly 40% of the fundraising activities were affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. The pandemic has fast-tracked digital transformation. It is critical for CSOs to adapt to this rapid change in order to build a resilient future and to deliver on the 2030 Agenda. In response, the BOOST Civil Society Technology Challenge aimed at backing CSOs to accelerate their digital transformation for a wider outreach and impact. The program is designed in a way to put forward an innovative example for SDG 17 on Partnerships for the Goals. UNDP Europe and Central Asia, at regional level, brought together governments and private sector as funding partners to support CSOs, SMEs and start-ups.

The Program is designed in two stages to offer a wide range of opportunities to CSOs operating in Turkey. In the initial stage, CSOs were invited to apply to the Challenge with a solution that uses technology and digital tools. 20 CSOs out of 38 applications were selected to join a three-month accelerator program.

Game Changer Innovation Program graphic. Credit: Koç Holding

The CSOs that were selected were ones that focus on education, human rights, gender equality, climate-environment and health. The Program offered an intensive learning program on digital transformation, technology for impact and crowdfunding; one-to-one mentorship with key experts to develop a project that uses digital technologies to innovate, scale and increase impact on development issues; and meetings with global and local experts in technology, innovation and sustainable development to create key steps and actions for the digital transformation roadmap of the organization. All CSOs participated in an empowering program that CSOs became familiar on impact measurement including the Theory of Change built on the lean business model, selection of relevant matrix (Impact-Output-Outcome-Impact model) and targets toward SDGs. All CSOs also engaged in a step-by-step roadmap to establish a digital transformation strategy for the CSOs.

How the BOOST acceleration program works:
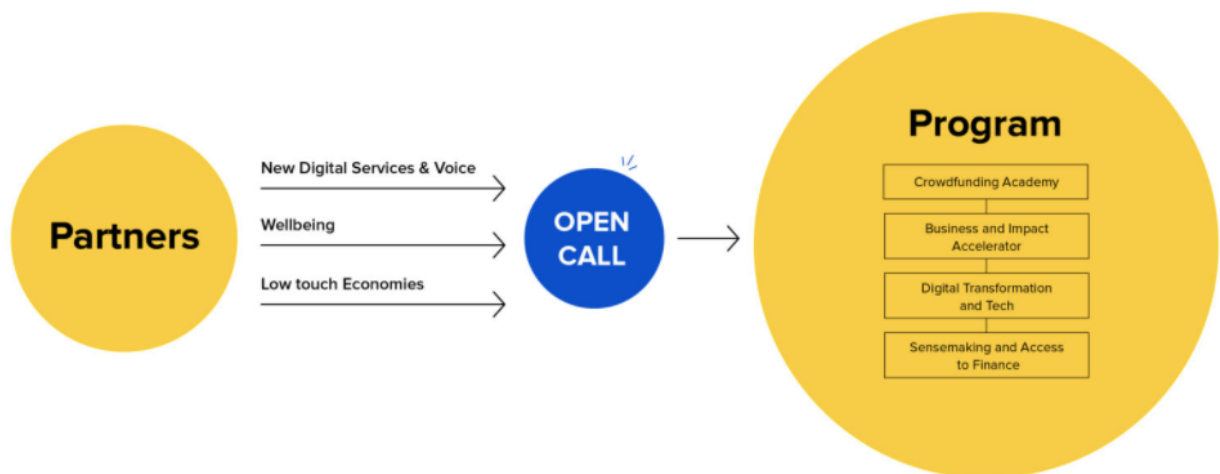
How the BOOST acceleration program works. Credit: Koç Holding

The program brought different experiences and expertise together on an international and national scale. Koç University Entrepreneurship Research Center (KWORKS) and StartUp Grind are the implementation partners of the accelerator. In addition, UNDP experts, as well as the Koç Group digital transformation leaders mentored CSOs throughout the process. After the completion of the first stage, 5 out of the 20 CSOs will be selected for one-on-one acceleration support for an additional 24-weeks. Each organization will receive up to USD 10,000 to prototype, implement and scale-up their project.

The BOOST Acceleration Program was designed with a systems lens to generate intelligence across different investments by applying a portfolio approach. This enabled partners to analyze the impact of the whole program. All solutions were initially selected based on their replicability and scalability. BOOST Civil Society Technology Challenge empowered CSOs in a way to mobilize digital tools in developing solutions. The Program went beyond assisting CSOs to work on a single solution by helping them to initiate their digital transformation journey. BOOST gathers up-to-date content which can be used by Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), social entrepreneurs as well as other organizations interested in addressing the SDGs through technology. It is an open online platform which allows anyone to access its solutions.

COVID-19 Impact
The BOOST Civil Society Technology Challenge was developed in order to empower CSOs during the COVID-19 crisis. The broader Boost Accelerator Program aims to incubate and accelerate solutions that address the current pandemic. The program supports a fast response and post-COVID-19 recovery by increasing community resilience and supporting vulnerable groups to cope with the pandemic and its aftermath.

Game Changer Innovation Program

BRIEF SUMMARY

Durham University in the UK is eager to contribute to the SDGs having signed the UN SDG Accord in 2018. In 2019, the University launched Game Changer, a fast-paced, extra-curricular innovation program using 'design thinking' to find solutions to the SDGs. Its purpose is to foster ingenuity, creativity and innovative design to deliver environmentally, socially and economically sustainable solutions. Students work in teams to research SDGs, ideate, develop prototypes and compete in a pitching challenge. The program enables students to be global citizens and leaders who will ensure delivery of the SDGs either through their career choices or entrepreneurial ventures that will contribute to economic growth.

Students can be intimidated by the scope of the SDGs or feel that as individuals they cannot make a difference. By bringing them together in teams, and breaking down the tasks into research, ideation and pitching, they have excelled at developing viable solutions. Durham University can directly measure its impact on SDG delivery in Game Changer in two ways; through the numbers of students, it works with and through the innovative entrepreneurial activity which arises after engagement that directly contributes to one or more of any of the SDGs. Game Changer has so far engaged over 300 students with the SDGs, increasing their understanding of the world's most significant problems.

Game Changer Poster. Credit: Durham University

Durham University is working with academics to embed Game Changer into curriculum-based learning, to increase student engagement with the SDGs as compulsory parts of their degrees.

Game Changer can be delivered in person or online, and has a flexible delivery model that fits into students' busy academic timetables, allowing more people to participate and allowing for growth. Durham University runs sprints (1, 2 or 5 days) and 1 to 3-hour workshops over a few weeks. Durham University uses business modelling tools such as the Value Proposition and Business Model canvasses to help students consider how their solutions could be implemented in the real world. It measures impact through evaluation surveys, and analyzes the skills students develop. It encourages students to participate in entrepreneurship activities to further pursue their solutions.

Durham University is developing an 'SDG Badges' scheme, where students can gain credits if they complete Game Changer or another activity related to SDG implementation. Discussions with University management are ongoing to embed the badge scheme across the curriculum, so that every course and module at Durham University is attributed a link with an SDG so that students can evaluate how their studies will help them to become global leaders. Besides the increasing number of students engaging with Game Changer, Durham University also sees impact through legacy activities such as students creating the Durham Environment and Sustainability Association, promoting careers in sustainable industries. These events regularly attract over 100 online participants and. Other examples include a group of students that developed an intelligent food waste app with integrated AI technology to monitor food consumption.

Durham University was invited to present Game Changer at an international conference for entrepreneurship educators (GCEC) and created a toolkit so that it can be replicated in other institutions. Durham University shared this with over 50 universities, with the ambition to collaborate on activities to increase engagement with the SDGs in higher education. Durham University is now rolling out the toolkit for academics at Durham University to explore delivering within their curriculum. This presents an opportunity to explore a Global Game Changer model, with students on both sides of the Atlantic participating in activity that will encourage them to find solutions to action and implement the SDGs. The University is in the process of creating a 'Game Changer Consortium' where peers across the globe can share best practice and case studies, following delivery of Game Changer.

COVID-19 Impact

COVID-19 has not impacted Durham University's ability to deliver Game Changer. In fact, it saw an increase in

Student storyboarding session, 2020. Credit: Durham University

engagement with students when it moved to online delivery. The live Game Changer sprint in February 2020 engaged 25 students, whereas the online version in June 2020 engaged 65 students, and the online version in October 2020 engaged 83 students. As the University returns to in-person teaching, the Game Changer program will be resuming as a live event. It is hoped that the reach of the program will expand to all of Durham's 17 colleges, with mini-challenges taking place from October to December 2021 followed by a 'Grand Final' competition in February 2022.

Mediterranean CleanUp

SNAPSHOT

Geographical coverage: Greece & Italy

Entity Name: ENALEIA (enaleia.com/en/homepage/)

Entity Type: Non-governmental organization (NGO)

Implementation period: 1 February 2016 – 31 December 2030

Key stakeholders and partnerships: Fishing networks (local fishermen; trawlers; and port managers)

Relevant SDGs:

| 4 QUALITY EDUCATION | 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH | 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION | 13 CLIMATE ACTION | 14 LIFE BELOW WATER |

Click to learn more:
sdgs.un.org/partnerships/mediterranean-cleanup-mcu

BRIEF SUMMARY

Mediterranean CleanUp (MCU) started operating in 2016 as the first professional fishing school in Greece. Besides fishing, MCU also taught fishermen how to fish more sustainably. MCU discovered that fishermen caught a significant amount of marine waste in their nets while fishing. Marine waste primarily consisted of plastic. This revelation sparked the MCU project. The MCU project now aspires to implement a wide-scale clean-up of marine plastic in the Mediterranean ecosystem by utilizing the network of fishermen.

Marine plastic collected from the seabed and from renewed equipment is recycled, upcycled and integrated into the circular economy. MCU collects fishing equipment directly from the fishing trawlers whenever the equipment is renewed. Old equipment, mainly nets and ropes, would otherwise end up at the bottom of the sea. MCU provides training to fishermen about the negative impacts of marine waste on the environment and their jobs. In doing so this motivates fishermen to change their mindset and collaborate with MCU. MCU also collects marine litter from the bottom of the sea. The network currently consists of 400 fishing vessels in 28 locations. MCU engages with six port managers who are responsible for the management of the local communities and the collection and storage of the collected marine litter.

Recovered marine waste. Credit: Enaleia

MCU removes approximately 200,000kg of marine litter from the sea annually, protecting the marine ecosystems and improving human life conditions. 65% of the collected marine plastic is upcycled into new products and the remainder is recycled. In June 2021, together with the local community of the Greek island of Ithaca, MCU organized a massive clean-up, collecting more than 74,000 kgs of marine plastic waste from the island in just one week. On average, MCU has increased the income of more than 700 fishermen by 50 EUR per month, the vast majority of these fishermen are low-paid migrants. In total, MCU has trained more than 1,500 fishermen to collect marine plastic and to fish sustainably. MCU has fostered more than 50 national and international partnerships and in recent months has started to work with the Government of Greece, providing them with data on the marine plastic that fishermen catch. This will help to identify which items commonly pollute the sea and develop policies to regulate the use of such items. In recognition of this work the UN Environment Program awarded MCU Co-founder and Director with the 'European Young Champion of the Earth' award for 2020. UN Mediterranean Action Plan also awarded him with the 'Ambassador of the Mediterranean Coast' for 2021.
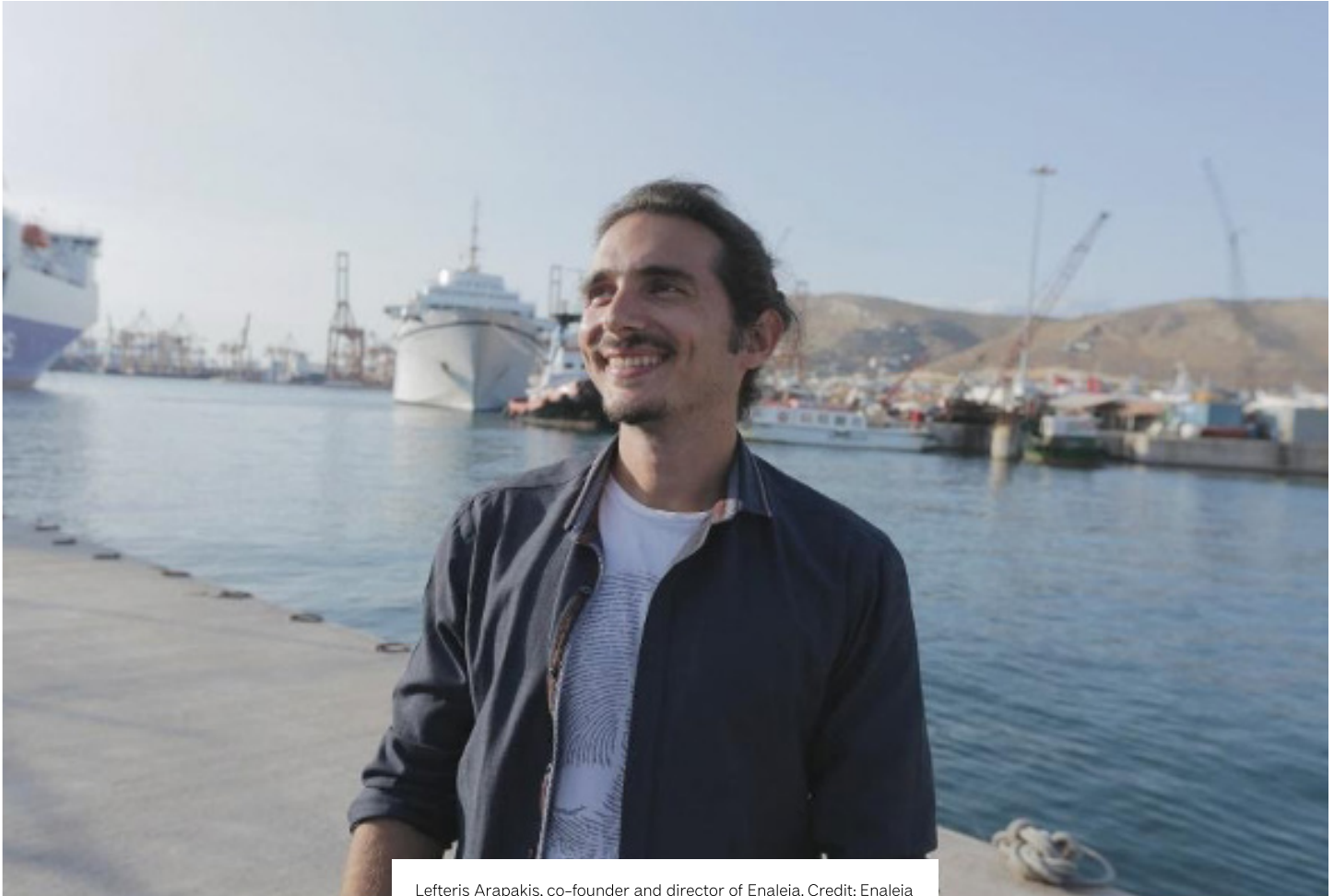
Lefteris Arapakis, co-founder and director of Enaleia. Credit: Enaleia

MCU's activities are already funded for the next five years by charitable foundations, private companies, in-kind sponsors and revenues from its own upcycled products. MCU has already expanded its activities in other countries. The project began in Greece but has expanded to Italy as well as Kenya in recent months. In addition, there are opportunities for MCU to expand to reach other continents, beginning with South-East Asia. MCU is seeking to transfer its knowledge and capabilities where the vast quantity of global marine litter is located. Its target is to share the know-how to help other countries to apply what has been achieved successfully in Greece, optimizing the social and environmental benefits derived from the MCU organization.

COVID-19 Impact

COVID-19 did not hinder the implementation of the MCU project but instead enabled its territorial expansion. This happened because while most sectors of the economy were facing lockdown, the fishing sector was one that continued its activity. Consequently, the network of fishermen continued to grow throughout the pandemic period, enabling the collection of marine litter and its introduction to the circular economy.

CHAPTER V

AMERICAS:
INNOVATIVE IDEAS,
SCALABLE DESIGN

Students at an SDG Activity event

Source: **City of Los Angeles, Office of the Mayor**

Mediterranean CleanUp

BRIEF SUMMARY

Tarjeta Alimentar is aimed at reducing food insecurity and promoting access to healthy food. It was implemented by the Ministry of Social Development of Argentina and forms part of the National Plan to Eradicate Hunger (PACH). Prior to the implementation of Tarjeta Alimentar, Argentina was experiencing a social crisis with high levels of poverty. This was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences in terms of job and income losses. Tarjeta Alimentar was one of the Government's responses to minimize the increase in poverty levels of the most vulnerable populations by guaranteeing access to food. Through a debit card, Tarjeta Alimentar provides a basic food basket to its beneficiaries.

Beneficiaries of Tarjeta Alimentar include parents who have children under six years old who already receive Universal Child Allowance (AUH), a form of conditional cash transfer. Pregnant women who receive pregnancy allowance, as well as persons with disabilities who receive Universal Child Allowance may also access Tarjeta Alimentar. Beneficiaries can use the debit card to purchase all types of food with the exception of alcoholic beverages. From the beginning of its implementation in December 2019 until January 2021, the Government of Argentina accredited $4000 pesos per beneficiary household with one child under six years old per month. This figure rises to $6000 per beneficiary household with two or more children under six. During the pandemic, these amounts were doubled to improve food purchase power. Since February 2021 this amount increased by 50%.
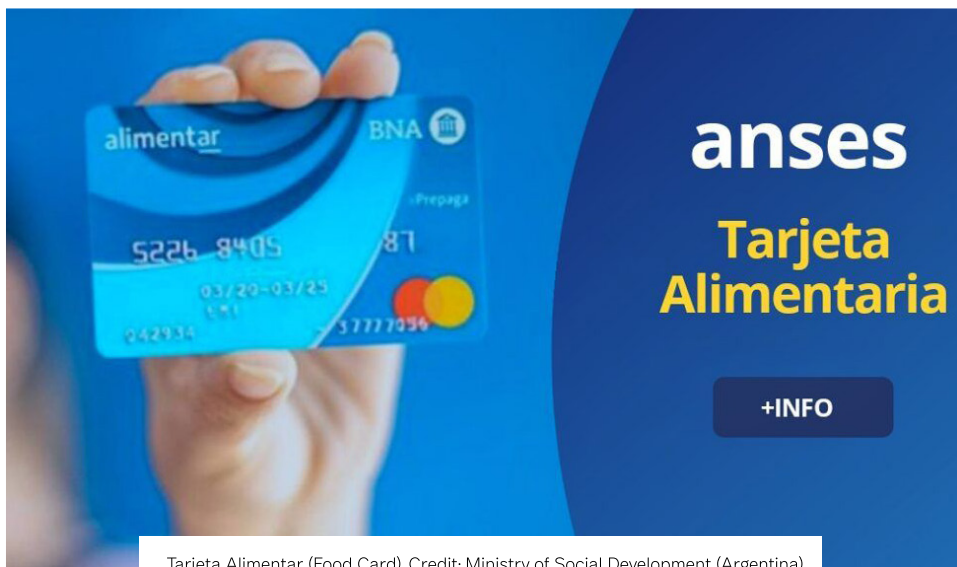
Tarjeta Alimentar (Food Card). Credit: Ministry of Social Development (Argentina)

The implementation of Tarjeta Alimentar was conducted in two stages. For the first three months, the card was distributed at large events. During these events beneficiaries also participated in training sessions on healthy nutrition practices. More than 650,000 people from 14 provinces participated in over 11,500 workshops. In January 2020, 400,000 beneficiaries had received their cards and by the beginning of April more than 1,500,000 cards had been distributed all over the country. With the emergence of the pandemic, the implementation characteristics required a change since it was not possible to meet and banks were temporarily closed. Therefore, the government rapidly decided to transfer the Tarjeta Alimentar amount to the Universal Child Allowance account, as its holders already held Universal Child Allowance cards.

Currently, Tarjeta Alimentar is one of the most prominent social policies both in terms of coverage and resources. It has 1,529,700 beneficiaries and reaches 1,945,047 children. It also accounts for 57% of the Ministry of Social Development's budget. During 2020, the Government of Argentina invested $95,355,000 pesos in Tarjeta Alimentar. Reports on beneficiary consumption are produced periodically in order to assess Tarjeta Alimentar's impacts. Different evaluations and studies have been commissioned using universities, think tanks and civil society organizations.

What is it?
It is an instrument provided by the national State so that everyone has access to the basic food basket.

Who is it for?
To mothers or fathers with sons and daughters up to 14 years of age who receive the AUH. Also to pregnant women from 3 months who receive the pregnancy allowance, people with disabilities who receive the AUH. Mothers with 7 or more children who receive Non-Contributory Pensions.

How does it work?
Its implementation is automatic so there is no need to carry out any formalities.

What can I buy?
It allows you to buy all kinds of food, except for alcoholic beverages.

Tarjeta Alimentar infographic. Credit: Ministry of Social Development (Argentina)

Recent evaluations and studies identified that despite receiving Tarjeta Alimentar and Universal Child Allowance (AUH), 70.8% of beneficiary households are poor and 9.1% are extremely poor. However, in terms of extreme poverty, households who receive Tarjeta Alimentar are better protected than similar households that do not. Extreme poverty increases to 31.3% in beneficiary households that have not received Tarjeta Alimentar. It also has a positive effect on food security, while 10.3% of households with Tarjeta Alimentar suffered severe food insecurity, this percentage reached 31.3% in households wit out it. Tarjeta Alimentar has allowed households to maintain or even increase the amount of food consumed. 46% of households with Tarjeta Alimentar state that they have bought more food, in comparison with 14% of households without it. Tarjeta Alimentar has contributed to maintaining or improving the quality of the food consumed. It has meant that there is a higher probability of children consuming acceptable levels of fruit, meat and dairy than children without the benefit. More than 50% of Tarjeta Alimentar consumption relates to healthy food, mainly dairy and animal protein.

COVID-19 Impact

COVID-19 impacted strongly in Tarjeta Alimentar implementation and required a quick response from the government to guarantee access to this benefit in the context of social isolation. When delivery acts were suspended, the government decided to transfer the Tarjeta Alimentar amount to beneficiaries Universal Child Allowance (AUH) accounts. This was possible because households receiving Tarjeta Alimentar are also AUH beneficiaries. The global increase in food prices due to the pandemic also required to increase the Tarjeta Alimentar amount by 50% since February 2021. Tarjeta Alimentar is a key policy to build back from the pandemic and to work towards the achievement of zero hunger in Argentina.

Escuelas de Campo – Support for social cohesion to promote territorial capital and inclusive growth of indigenous regions of Panama

SNAPSHOT

Geographical coverage: Indigenous territories of Ngäbe Buglé (Districts of Besiko, Nole Duima, Ñurum, Muna and Jirondai) and Emberá Wounaan (District of Cémaco), Panama

Entity Name: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Subregional Office for Mesoamerica (fao.org/panama/fao-en-panama/es/)

Entity Type: United Nations / Multilateral body

Implementation period: 13 November 2019 – 30 June 2021

Key stakeholders and partnerships: World Bank; FAO; national government; regional and local government; indigenous peoples

Relevant SDGs: ![SDG 1 No Poverty] ![SDG 2 Zero Hunger] ![SDG 5 Gender Equality] ![SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth]

Click to learn more:

sdgs.un.org/partnerships/apoyo-la-cohesion-social-en-panama-para-impulsar-capital-territorial-y-crecimiento

BRIEF SUMMARY

In 2018, the Ministry of Social Development of Panama (MIDES), the World Bank and FAO signed an agreement to implement the 'Escuelas de Campo' field-school methodology in a project to strengthen capacities and productive inclusion in the Ngäbe-Buglé region of Panama. The objectives of the project were to increase the participation of women, as well as technically strengthen the agri-food systems of indigenous families in the region. This practice reaffirms the importance of the participation of rural and indigenous women in the transformation of food systems to reduce poverty and hunger.

This practice has two characteristics which make it distinctive, innovative, and an effective response to the 2030 Agenda. First, it promotes community participation with respect for multiculturalism and the worldview of indigenous peoples. It encourages the empowerment of women by involving them directly in decision-making and activities which focus on approaches to agri-environmental and climate change adaptation. Second, it highlights institutional coordination, coordination between the different key actors in the territory, and coordination between cash transfer programs and social protection programs.

'Escuelas de Campo' field-school methodology. Credit: FAO

The program was developed through a fund of 2,210,463 million dollars, which is part of the 'Strengthening the Social Protection and Inclusion System' loan project between the Government of Panama and the World Bank. 2,647 families from the Ngäbe-Buglé and Emberá indigenous populations currently participate in this initiative. These families receive inputs and technical training to improve their agri-food systems, which in turn increases economic development, strengthening food security, and poverty reduction. Activities under the program include collaborative and gender-sensitive preparation of community work plans; training on good crop and post-harvest management practices and organic agriculture; and the creation of inclusive and sustainable, public and private services in the Panamanian indigenous regions.

'Escuelas de Campo' field-school methodology. Credit: FAO

Through the program, 1,137 indigenous families have incorporated sustainable production practices into their agri-food systems. Families are able to improve and increase food production, as well as marketing and income generating systems. The production of certain foods that did not exist in these communities has been strengthened, which has increased the possibility of having seeds to plant and diversifying the diet of the beneficiaries and their families. Technicians from governmental institutions have been trained in the ECA good-practice methodology. Local capacities have also been strengthened, 12 indigenous technicians and 16 community promoters have been linked in order to guarantee the self-sustainability of actions and results.

One element that supports the results of these actions is the linkage of social protection mechanisms with productive inclusion strategies, which improves the economic capacity of families and their quality of life; generating more opportunities in communities and contributing to strengthening local economies, making them self-sustaining. This practice could be replicated to support the implementation of the SDGs in other places, taking up the methodology of capacity development under the focus of field schools, strengthening the capacities of local producers to promote rural enterprises, typical of the vocation of each place, that allows for increased income and rural-territorial development.

COVID-19 Impact

Due to COVID-19, activities with the participants were restricted. To overcome this, a contingency plan for biosafety measures issued by the health authorities was prepared and implemented. Intervention areas became difficult to access and transport was scarce due to issues surrounding quarantine. In response to these challenges, a vehicle was assigned to support the logistics and transport of technicians, to ensure that the communities were not isolated. Technical assistance at the field level has been a key factor in maintaining the work of the communities, particularly from local indigenous technicians. In addition to COVID-19, Tropical Storm Eta and Hurricane Iota caused flooding of the rivers in the Ngäbe-Buglé region. This meant the loss of roads and crops of 154 beneficiaries. The practices of indigenous peoples are combined with modern techniques to improve productivity, to enhance social mobility, and to guarantee sustainability.

To read about other good practices submitted by FAO, please access the SDG Good Practices Online Database.

Consolidation of School Feeding Programs in Latin America and the Caribbean

SNAPSHOT

Geographical coverage: Multiple countries in Latin America and the Caribbean

Entity Name: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) (fao.org/home/es/)

Entity Type: United Nations / Multilateral body

Implementation period: 1 June 2018 – 12 November 2022

Key stakeholders and partnerships: FAO; national government; regional and local government

Relevant SDGs:

Click to learn more:

sdgs.un.org/partnerships/consolidacion-de-programas-de-alimentacion-escolar-en-america-latina-y-el-caribe

BRIEF SUMMARY

Within the framework of South–South Cooperation and through the Brazil–FAO International Cooperation Programme, the Brazilian Cooperation Agency of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (ABC/MRE), the National Fund for Educational Development (of the Brazilian Ministry of Education (FNDE/ MEC) and FAO have been implementing actions through the 'Consolidation of School Feeding Programs in Latin America and the Caribbean' project. Using the experiences of the National School Feeding Program of Brazil (PNAE) as a reference, the project became the most important platform for exchange and cooperation to strengthen school feeding programs in the region.
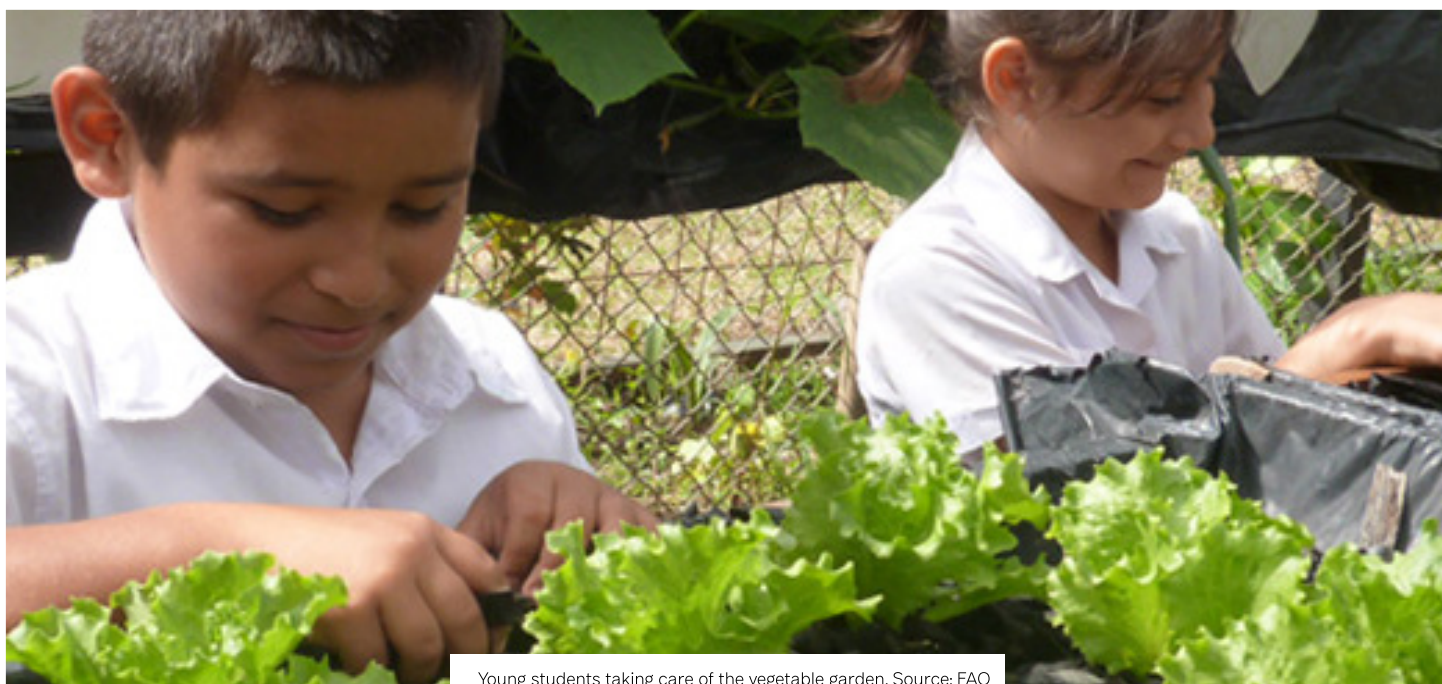
Young students taking care of the vegetable garden. Source: FAO

The project seeks to strengthen the institutional capacity of countries to develop food and nutritional security policies at the national and regional level. It also seeks to promote important advancements in school feeding policies, such as changing the eating habits of student populations and their families; strengthening and expanding markets for local produce; and supporting the sustainable development of the local economy. By following these guidelines, the project seeks to share experiences and lessons learned to promote the achievement of the SDGs, especially developing and strengthening local public policies on school feeding, with a particular emphasis on the universal and indivisible human right to adequate food, health and well-being.

Execution of the project has secured the implementation of sustainable schools. Countries selected some schools with the objective of developing public procurement for school meals, such as using school gardens as a methodological proposal for food and nutrition education; strengthening infrastructure such as kitchens, warehouses and dining rooms; as well as providing food safety train. In total 11 countries, 51 departments, 152 municipalities, 6,000 schools and more than 300,000 students participated in this activity. The project also allowed for the exchange of experiences and knowledge in order to disseminate good practices, as well as to highlight breakthroughs and challenges. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, virtual meetings were held to share good practices on food distribution to students during school closures. Representatives from 21 countries and approximately 12,000 people participated in the initiative, and more than 2,000 professionals were trained.

Students having school lunch. Source: FAO

The program has resulted in the strengthening of school feeding policies in the region and inclusion in governmental agendas. There is now a consensus in the region that school feeding programs are key for good health and education of children and youth. School feeding is now recognized as a human right rather than simply an element of social welfare. School feeding laws have been enacted in five countries that received support from the Brazil-FAO International Cooperation Programme. Two additional countries are in the process of drafting their laws to consolidate this policy. The number of participating sustainable schools has increased because of the expansion of the methodology. A Sustainable School Feeding Network has also been created to address issues related to malnutrition and to achieving the SDGs.

COVID-19 Impact

Faced with challenge of maintaining the food and nutrition security of students during the crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic, governments have sought and found alternatives to alleviate the effects of school closures. This scenario outlined the importance of maintaining dialogue channels and cooperation between countries, especially in order to share information, strengthen strategies, and discuss new possibilities for action in times of crisis and emergency. As a result, meetings and video-conferences were organized at the regional level, where school feeding managers and technicians from each country could present their game plan.

To read about other good practices submitted by FAO, please access the SDG Good Practices Online Database.

Open SDG Platform and SDG Activities Index: Open-Source Tools for Local Action on the SDGs

SNAPSHOT

Geographical coverage: City of Los Angeles, USA

Entity Name: City of Los Angeles (sdg.lamayor.org/)

Entity Type: Regional/ Local Government

Implementation period: 1 December 2017 – 30 December 2022

Key stakeholders and partnerships: Conrad N. Hilton Foundation; Mayor's Fund for Los Angeles; Occidental College, University of Southern California, Arizona State University, University of California Los Angeles, and Pomona College; Center for Open Data Enterprise (CODE); and the Los Angeles Information Technology Agency (ITA); academia; and student support

Relevant SDGs:

Click to learn more:

sdgs.un.org/partnerships/open-source-tools-local-action-sdgs

BRIEF SUMMARY

The City of Los Angeles, USA adopted the SDG framework in late 2017 with the aim of improving the lives of L.A. residents. The City of Los Angeles pioneered two open-source tools for SDG action at the local level, an open-source SDG data reporting platform (Open SDG) and the SDG Activities Index. The City of Los Angeles believes that these hubs for the innovation and action will be required to achieve the Global Goals by 2030. L.A. approaches its SDG work along three avenues, measure, mobilize, and connect. The open-source tools are enablers for all of these, measuring itself to identify where opportunities to mobilize new initiatives are greatest, and connecting with partners and practitioners to build the partnerships needed to so, both locally and within the global SDG community of practice. Both of these tools have Wikipedia pages and their codes can be reused by other organizations to advance the SDGs in their communities.

Mayor Garcetti Speaking. Credit: City of Los Angeles, Office of the Mayor

Implementation of the SDGs in L.A. was initiated by a grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation through the Mayor's Fund for Los Angeles. L.A. has also received in kind support from five key local university partners: Occidental College, University of Southern California, Arizona State University, University of California Los Angeles, and Pomona College.

The Open SDG platform currently reports on 160 localized SDG indicators, pulling data from various local and national sources into one place. Where possible, the datasets are disaggregated by demographic and geographic characteristics, allowing users to identify populations that may be left behind. The data platform engages about 250 users per month and it has been used as a source of data for other equity-centered initiatives, including in gender and racial equity. The Open SDG platform was developed for national statistics however, L.A. was the first city to adapt it for sub-national reporting. It was established for L.A. in partnership with the Center for Open Data Enterprise (CODE), the City's Information Technology Agency (ITA), and with support from the Mayor's Fund for Los Angeles. Since Open SDG is not proprietary, there were no licensing costs associated with the deployment of the platform locally. Several modifications were needed to ensure the platform reflected a local government reality. All those changes are recorded in an open Wiki that can be accessed by other cities or organizations that may want to deploy their own platforms. The Open SDG platform is maintained by the project team with support from student interns through academic partnerships.

SDG students, Los Angeles. Credit: City of Los Angeles, Office of the Mayor

The SDG Activities Index is a searchable and exportable crowd-sourced encyclopedia of organizations advancing the SDGs in L.A., designed to build local shared capacity for the SDGs. The SDG Activities Index helps the city to build a growing network of actors across by advancing the SDGs through their everyday work. The initial list of projects included was inputted by a team of student interns and additional entries are crowdsourced from the community. Any organization doing work to advance the SDGs in Los Angeles can input their efforts into this growing database. The SDG Activities Index currently hosts over 150 local projects making progress on the SDGs in L.A. Since its launch, the SDG Activities Index has had almost 1,000 users. Through L.A.'s open-source tools as well as its mobilization projects, it has worked with over 160 undergraduate and graduate students from the partner academic institutions.

Recently, the cities of Liverpool, Barcelona, and Bristol have also launched their own local instances of the Open SDG platform, joining L.A. in reporting SDG data using an open-source platform. L.A. is also supporting Durban and San Diego as they work on localizing the SDGs for their communities and prepare to launch their data platforms. The SDG Activities Index can also be adapted into many different contexts. In L.A., it is used to collect and report information on public, private, non-profit, and philanthropic initiatives across all 17 SDGs but it can be used to host information on any subset of those sectors or SDG goals. L.A's plans for the coming year are to expand the usage of the SDG Activities Index in its local community as well as continue to expand features on the data platform so that the data reported is more actionable.

COVID-19 Impact

Since both tools are hosted online, direct impact of COVID-19 has been minimal however, as the work is supported by students, the summer cohorts and internship programs had to be moved into a virtual setting. The virtual setting has allowed L.A. to grow its student capacity to the extent that 54 students were hosted in the summer of 2020. The data hosted in the platform has allowed L.A. to disaggregate data to understand where positive trends may not be distributed equally, driving action to ensure no one is left behind.

CPFL in Hospitals – Helping the hospitals that care for you

SNAPSHOT

Geographical coverage: Southeast region, Brazil

Entity Name: CPFL Energia (cpfl.com.br/Paginas/default.aspx)

Entity Type: Private Sector

Implementation period: 1 January 2019 – 31 March 2022

Key stakeholders and partnerships: ANEEL (Electricity Regulatory Agency); Non-Governmental Organizations (Griots, Médicos do Sorriso, and the Hospitalhaços); public institutions

Relevant SDGs:

Click to learn more:

sdgs.un.org/partnerships/cpfl-hospitals-helping-hospitals-care-you

BRIEF SUMMARY

CPFL in Hospitals (CPFL nos Hospitais) is an initiative from Brazil that helps public and philanthropic institutions to reduce their energy costs and releasing funds for key medical expenses. The initiative focuses on three major areas. First, energy efficiency, actions such as the installation of solar panels to generate clean energy, the use of LED lamps, air-conditioning (A/C) system automation, and other retrofit equipment. Second, investment in hospitals improvements through tax incentive programs to improve infrastructure and to humanize healthcare. Third, donations by CPFL clients to the program through their energy bills. These practices benefit patients and the local community by improving people's health and quality of life.

Launched in 2019, the CPFL in Hospitals program integrates energy efficiency initiatives and private social investment to drive improvements in public health institution service. The expectation is that these actions will allow health institutions to save approximately R$ 18 million a year by reducing energy bills, an amount sufficient to pay for the medical care of 75,000 additional patients a year. In the long run, bearing in mind the 20-year lifetime of solar panels, savings from lower energy bills could help provide treatment to more than 1.5 million people.

The project is monitored each month, reports are produced and shared with CPFL leadership as part of the organization's Sustainability Plan. Approved in 2019, the Sustainability Plan defines guidelines with the objective to 'power the transition to a more sustainable and smart way of providing and using energy, maximizing our positive impacts in the community and value chain.' The Sustainability Plan is structured based on three pillars: Sustainable Energy, Smart Solutions and Society Shared Value. The results are also disclosed to the National Electricity Regulatory Agency (ANEEL) and to the public through the CPFL website. CPFL divided the Energy Efficiency efforts into 26 projects, each one has its own mil stones and deliverables. Hospitals were divided regionally in each project to facilitate the deployment of the energy efficiency actions. Furthermore, CPFL demanded personal specialized human resources to carry out these practices and to share its expertise in the energy sector. The company invested its own money in these practices and encou ages its clients to support donation initiatives to help the hospitals that need regular improvements. As part of the implementation process, CPFL also developed partnerships with the municipal government and local NGOs.

In 2020, CPFL in Hospitals helped 171 hospitals located in the southeast and south Brazilian regions. 153 additional hospitals have actions in progress. The most relevant results include 13,391 kWp installed capacity of photovoltaic (PV) systems. Photovoltaic systems convert the Sun's radiation, in the form of light, into usable electricity. 97,664 lamps have been replaced by LEDs; R$10.3 million/year estimated savings by reducing energy consumption; 24.9 GWh/year expected solar energy generation, enough to supply 10,587 homes; 1,884 tons of Carbon Dioxide (tCO2) Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GEE) avoided, equivalent to the planting of more than 11,303 trees; and the amount invested from the program beginning, in 2019, up to September 2021 was R$ 117 million. In addition, a specific COVID-19 investment was carried out of around R$ 8 million with tax incentive resources focused on infrastructure improvements and hospital humanization, benefiting 340 thousand people. R$ 6 million was donated by CPFL to fight COVID-19. A further R$ 4.2 million was donated by clients to 105 hospitals through energy bills.

Accumulated of Installed Capacity of CPFL in Hospitals| kWp. Credit: CPFL

The financial return and the sustainability benefits of installing photovoltaic panels ensure that this practice can be replicated anywhere in the world. Any philanthropic organizations, hospitals, public schools, NGOs and other organizations with high energy consumption can adopt these practices. Companies do not need to be based in the energy sector to replicate these actions. In Brazil, it's possible to use the ANEEL Energy Efficiency Program to identify area to help vulnerable populations. These types of practices trigger further incentives from customers to adopt good practices.

COVID-19 Impact

COVID-19 pandemic drastically increased the importance of the Program. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, on-site implementation of energy efficiency actions faces restrictions and delays. New safety protocols had to be developed in order to keep to the commitments outlined in CPFL's Sustainable Plan. CPFL invested R$ 7.3 million in tax incentive resources, which focused on infrastructure improvements, hospital humanization initiatives. Additional investments of R$ 750,000 were made to support elderly people in response COVID-19. CPFL also made donations of around R$ 6 million. The investments and donations made by CPFL in Hospitals have helped to create jobs and to keep clean energy business running during critical times.