

Final Report for Special allocation for incubation of the window on Decent Jobs and Universal Social Protection

## Cover page

**Date of Report:** 30/06/2023

### Project title

**Country:** Global  
**Project title:** Decent Jobs and Universal Social Protection

### Project duration

**Start date:** 1 August 2022  
**Original End date:** 31 December 2022  
**Actual End date:** 30 May 2023

**Have the PUNO operationally closed the project in its system:** No  
**Expected financial closure date<sup>1</sup>:** 30 August 2023

### Participating Organizations

**Lead PUNO:** International Labour Organization  
**Focal Point from the lead PUNO:** Josée-Anne Larue ([larue@ilo.org](mailto:larue@ilo.org))  
**Other PUNO Focal Points:** Valérie Schmitt ([schmittv@ilo.org](mailto:schmittv@ilo.org))

### Project budget (US\$)

**Joint SDG Fund Contribution<sup>2</sup> and co-funding breakdown, by recipient organization:**

	Joint SDG Fund contribution	Co-funding	Total
PUNO1	250,000	120,000	370,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>370,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> Financial Closure requires the return of unspent balances and submission of the [Certified Final Financial Statement and Report](#).

<sup>2</sup> Joint SDG Fund Contribution is the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations – see [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#).

## Narrative report

### Project context

- *Explain who was implementing the project and why (objective); provide an update (what has changed since the project was launched); and briefly indicate specific challenges and opportunities.*

The overall purpose of the global project was to support the incubation of the thematic window on the Catalytic Funding for Decent Jobs and Universal Social Protection, which should support the implementation of the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions (the Global Accelerator). The intention was to provide limited funding for technical support in order to: facilitate stakeholder consultations, drive resource mobilization, develop an Investment Strategy based on a multi-year approach, design the management arrangements for the window, and prepare the launch of the window with development partners.

The proposed global project was implemented by the Lead PUNO (ILO) which is taking responsibility of leading the preparations for the Window, in close collaboration with relevant PUNOs as well as DCO, EOSG and the Fund's Secretariat. The project also facilitated consultations with RCs and UNCT's to inform the overall strategy of the Global Accelerator and the criteria for selecting "pathfinder countries".

### Project Results

- *For each deliverable / output, provide overview of the main activities and results. List all main events organized with the project.*

The project had the following key deliverables:

## 1. Finalization of the Concept for the window:

- 1.1** The concept note of the new window on Decent Jobs and Universal Social Protection was finalized in July 2022 and endorsed by the DSG in November 2022.



Joint SDG Fund  
window on jobs and

1.2 The Implementation Strategy of the Global Accelerator was finalized and published in September 2022. It is available [here](#). In addition, it was translated in Spanish and French both are available on the Global Accelerator website.

## 2. Investment Strategy finalized:

- 2.1** The Investment Strategy of the new window on Decent Jobs and Universal Social Protection was drafted through a participatory process, which included agencies involved in the Technical Support Facility of the Global Accelerator, ie. UNDP and UNICEF.

- 2.2** The draft Investment Strategy was shared with 15 UNRCs in December 2022 (Albania, Cambodia, Egypt, Jordan, Kenya, Lao, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Paraguay, Rwanda, Senegal, Thailand, Uzbekistan, Vietnam) for their comments and suggestions to be integrated into the Strategy.

### 2.3 National consultations:

Stakeholder consultations, including with UNRCs, UNCTs, member-states and global, regional and local development partners took place since the beginning of the project. That preparatory work was intended to be exploratory and demonstrate the viability of launching a full-fledged window and to facilitate necessary commitments from both RCs and UN entities, and development partners.

The letter sent by the DSG to all UNRCs on 8 February triggered considerable interest from the UN system, with discussions with Governments, UNRCs, UNCT or individual agencies **in 19 countries** (**Africa**: Namibia, Malawi, Morocco, Rwanda, Senegal; **Asia**: Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam; **Latin America**: Mexico, Paraguay, Panama; **Arab States**: Iraq and Jordan; **Europe**: Albania).

Scoping missions to hold national consultations, assess the readiness of countries to become pathfinder countries and agree on potential entry points for the Global Accelerator national roadmaps have taken place and are planned for the next few months. Some of these missions were co-financed between this project and other funds.

### 2.4 Country profiles

Two consultants were recruited to develop 11 country profiles, to help the coordination team of the Global Accelerator to review national policies and financing frameworks on

employment promotion and social protection in potential pathfinder countries (Albania, Cambodia, Jordan, Malawi, Namibia, Paraguay, Rwanda, Senegal, Thailand, Uzbekistan, and Viet Nam).

The overall objective of the consultancy was to support the review of national policies, responses and trends related to supporting job creation and social protection. This review aimed to:

1. Further inform the selection of pathfinder countries, based on the initial SWOT analysis conducted by the ILO and other UN agencies;
2. Identify potential entry points to operationalise the Global Accelerator, with a potential to achieve substantial results within the next two to three years;
3. Support the engagement with UNRCs, UNCTs, the government and other national and international partners.

**2.5.** The Investment Strategy was finalized, published and disseminated to potential donors, it is available [here](#).

### **3. Resource mobilization strategy prepared and launched:**

- 3.1** Extensive discussions with more than 30 development partners took place since the beginning of the project, to try and secure funding for the new window on Decent Jobs and Universal Social Protection.

The financial resources allowed for some missions to take place, to support the resource mobilization efforts; for example, the Directors of Employment and Social Protection departments of the ILO went to Washington D.C. for discussions with Germany (BMZ) and the World Bank, which were necessary to secure the initial funding from BMZ.

- 3.2** A resource mobilization mapping exercise which includes donor leads, current financing trends in the priority countries and priority actions has been developed.

- 3.3** Involvement of development partners and IFIS in the development of the Results Framework of the Global Accelerator:

A [consultative workshop](#) was held on March 23, 2023 and financed through the SDG project. More than 30 representatives from Belgium, Canada, EBRD, the European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, OECD, Sweden, USAID and the World Bank attended the meeting. From the UN side, staff from IFAD, ILO, UNDP, UNEP, UNICEF, UNWOMEN, WFP, WHO, the Executive Office of the SG and the Joint SDG Fund Secretariat were present in numbers. All partners reiterated their strong support to the GA and highlighted their priority lines of engagement and alignment under the results framework.

The objectives of this workshop, which was considered the initial stage of a process of developing a common vision around the Global Accelerator`s value proposition, were to: bring together the inputs, suggestions, and general orientations of the participating development partners and financial institutions on the theory of change and expected results; and, have collective

progress on the establishment of solid results, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework by creating strong indicators.

- 3.4** A High-level Financing and Policy Dialogue took place in New York on April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023, where both development partners and partner countries strongly supported the value proposition of the Global Accelerator. Countries like Spain and Portugal confirmed on that day that they would financially support the window. The financial resources allowed to co-finance the event, and for ILO experts to be present for the occasion.

Following the joint declaration on 29 November 2022 by Germany, the ILO and World Bank, the architecture of a **joint WB/ILO financing mechanism** to support the Global Accelerator has been submitted to Germany, which officially confirmed its financial support in June 2023. The financing mechanism would support the development of roadmaps in 7 pathfinder countries and funding rounds through the SDG Fund Window and a dedicated window of the World Bank RSR ASP Trust Fund, to support GA implementation.

#### **4. Communications strategy**

Several streams of communications work were financed through the project, more specifically:

- In addition to the planned deliverables, the project allowed for the development of the [Global Accelerator website \(unglobalaccelerator.org\)](http://unglobalaccelerator.org), that was launched in March 2023, and is the main source of information regarding the Accelerator and the new window (co-funded with ILO resources).
- The development of the visual identity and graphic guidelines of the Global Accelerator.
- The development of a Global Accelerator [brochure](#), now available in 3 languages.
- The support of an international communications expert, tasked with interviews around the High-level Financing and Policy Dialogue of the Global Accelerator. He is also responsible for a social media campaign. The work was cost-shared with ILO and will go beyond the project dates.

#### **5. Terms of Reference for the window prepared for approval:**

- 5.1 The Terms of Reference for the window have not yet been validated, as some of the key elements related to the linkages between the governance of the Global Accelerator in general and the window in particular are still under discussion as part of the finalization of the joint ILO-UN/WB financing mechanism funded by Germany. ILO is using in-kind resources to finalize the TORs.

#### **6. The first funding round prepared for launch:**

- 6.1 At this stage, the first funding round is planned for October 2023 (TBD).

## Way forward

- *Briefly mention what is expected to happen after the project and recommend the follow-up, if relevant.*

Many of the activities will continue beyond the end date of the project:

1. Resource mobilization efforts are ongoing. The ILO and other UN agencies involved continue to meet on a regular basis to discuss the funding of the Global Accelerator and the new window.
2. Advocacy and partnership development is continuing, based on the momentum created. The Global Accelerator has been selected as a high impact initiative which will be featured at the SDG Summit.
3. The members of the TSF (ILO, UNDP, UNICEF, UN WOMEN, FAO and WFP) are supporting the engagement process in Pathfinder countries. Through discussions and technical assistance (including on site missions) the TSF is currently supporting 11 countries (Albania, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malawi, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Paraguay, Senegal, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam) with the development of Global Accelerator national roadmaps. It is expected that three of these countries will present their roadmaps at the SDG Summit in September 2023.
4. Internal and external communication materials are being developed and updated on a regular basis.