



Building a better future in Least Developed Countries

United Nations Industrial Development Organization



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Foreword by the Director General



Promoting sustainable and resilient industrial development is now more important than ever. We live in a world that is wracked by crises. The after-effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the impacts of wars and conflicts, exploding costs for energy, fertilizer and grain, inflation and climate change with drought and floods are hitting the world's most vulnerable the hardest. The crises of the last years have thrown back progress in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) more than in the rest of the world. And they have fueled another crisis now facing LDCs: an exploding debt burden, which significantly hinders the development that is so badly needed. Today more than three billion people live in countries where more of the budget is spent on debt interest payments than on education or health.

Supporting LDCs in solving their unique challenges is at the heart of UNIDO's work. We focus on innovative solutions for LDCs, in order to give them a sustainable development perspective. The world has a collective responsibility to help lift up the LDCs, and for this we have to explore new pathways. We have the knowledge and the technologies to overcome a great many hurdles and to pave the way to prosperity. What we need are new partnerships, a sense of global solidarity and a specifically a "New Deal" for the Least Developed Countries: Debt relief and fair access to global financial markets, as well as a long-term oriented investment offensive in infrastructure for agriculture, sustainable energy, and climate protection. Also, the implementation of the Loss and Damage Fund alongside a reliable fulfillment of the climate commitments made by the industrialized countries. Finally, industrialized countries must live up to the long-promised 0.7% of GDP development spending target without fail.

UNIDO has been leading the way on the Doha Plan of Action for LDCs, and we developed our own operational strategy for LDCs. We focus on concrete applications and concrete implementation that create sustainable impact on the ground. And we will continue to expand our project cooperation in the coming years in service of these goals.

Gerd Müller

Director General, UNIDO

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UNIDO and the Least Developed Countries

UNIDO and LDCs



As of November 1966, UNIDO was established as an autonomous body within United Nations



As of November 1971, was established the least developed countries category at the 26th UN General Assembly



As of November 2021, Gerd Müller was appointed the Director General of UNIDO at the 19th General Conference



As of August 2023, 45 out of 46 least developed countries are UNIDO Member States



2023 marks the 10th UNIDO Ministerial Conference of the LDCs taking place on 24 - 25 November 2023



2023 marks the 20th UNIDO General Conference taking place on 27 November – 1st December 2023



Bhutan is due to graduate on 13th December 2023



Angola is due to graduate on 12th February 2024



In 2023, UNIDO has 17 field offices located in LDCs



In 2022, UNIDO implemented 192 national projects in LDCs



On 18th August 2023, South Sudan became the newest Member State of UNIDO



UNIDO's contribution to the DPoA

UNIDO's multi-faceted approach includes a variety of highly specialized and differentiated services that promote social inclusion and economic competitiveness, as well as cross-cutting activities such as knowledge networks, institutional partnerships, youth and women's empowerment.

Enhancing technical and vocational skills, developing digital innovation, increasing productive capacities and competitiveness in the manufacturing sector, generating quality employment opportunities for all, enhancing access to clean and affordable energy for productive use, promoting circular economy and developing clean technology solutions for climate change, enhancing international cooperation and trade partnerships are among key UNIDO services that can contribute to the DPoA implementation.

All these services, and their underlying aims, are aligned with the DPoA and mainstreamed into UNIDO's four enabling functions: (i) technical cooperation; (ii) analytical and research and policy advisory services; (iii) normative functions and standards-related activities; and (iv) convening function and partnerships, for the development and implementation of industrial transition strategies.

"South-South cooperation leads to greater innovation as it provides opportunities for developing countries to learn from each other and to share best practices"

**Gerd Müller, UNIDO
Director General**

UNIDO value addition is based on its needs driven, tailored solutions. In cooperation with the United Nations development system at the global, regional and country levels, UNIDO prioritizes evidence-based programming, prominently in the context of the Programme for Country Partnerships (PCPs). Thought leadership and convening of global partners remain vital approaches to boost cooperation for ISID, with a special focus on expanding collaboration with the private sector as a key player to catalyse transformative solutions.

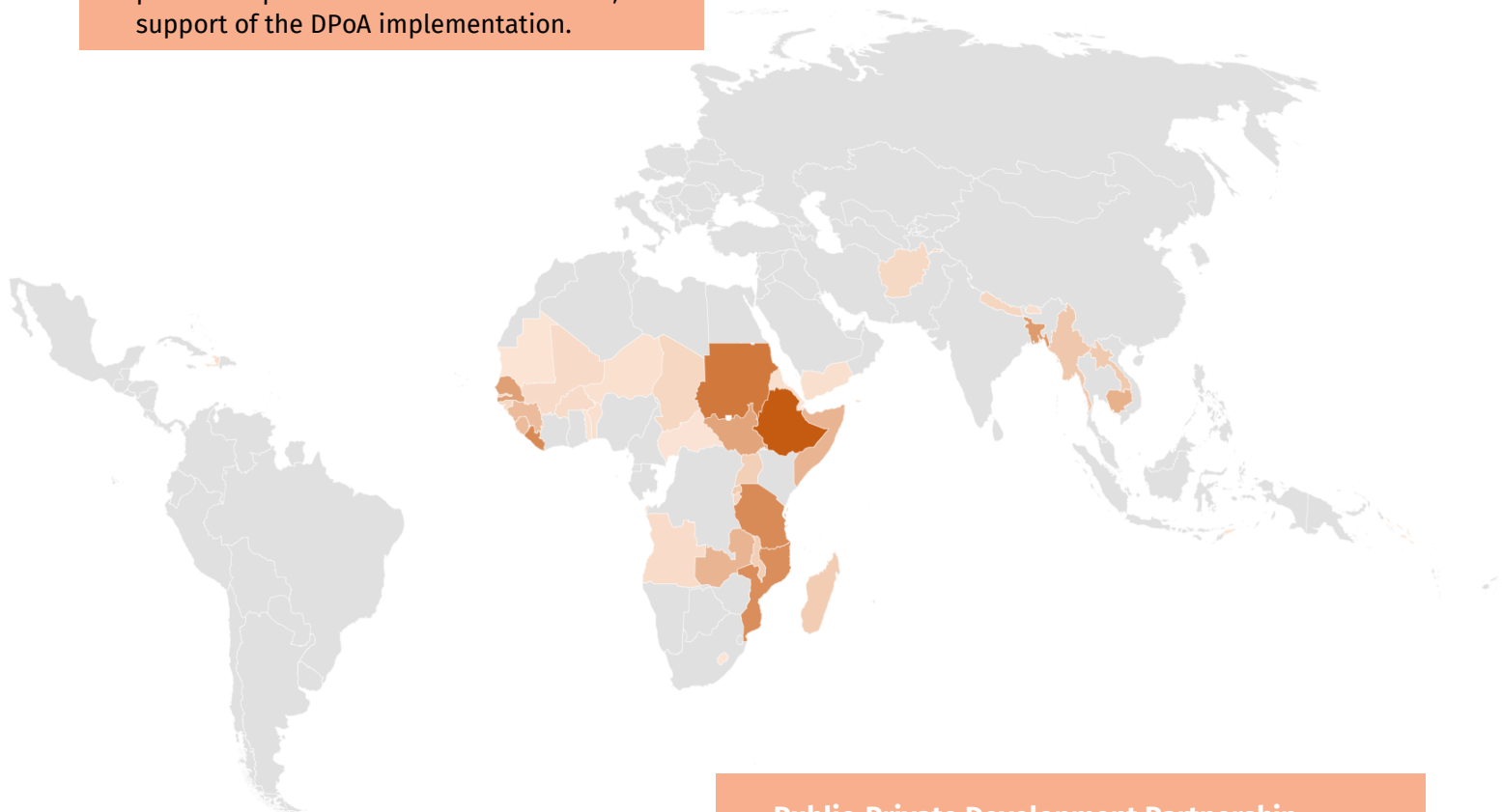
UNIDO has different ways of partnering with the business sector. The PCP is an innovative model that brings together relevant development partners, including financial institutions and the business sector, under the leadership of the host government to accelerate the achievement of inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

Multi-stakeholder platforms offer another modality of engagement with the business sector. They are a place to discuss, share information and come up with new solutions on a particular theme or issue. Examples of UNIDO's multi-stakeholder platforms include the global network of Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production Centres, Chemical Leasing and the Learning and Knowledge Development Facility (LKDF).

South-South and Triangular Industrial Cooperation (SSTIC)

UNIDO utilizes the South-South and triangular industrial cooperation (SSTIC) as one of the key modalities to foster technical cooperation among developing countries.

Currently, there are 28 UNIDO projects in LDCs that apply the SSTIC approach. UNIDO plans to expand the SSTIC in LDCs further, in support of the DPoA implementation.



TC delivery (US\$)

42 m 50k



Public-Private Development Partnership (PPDPs)

In a typical PPDP, the business sector brings in equipment and know-how to ensure beneficiaries learn the latest and most relevant technical skills, with a focus on practical training. The public sector contributes buildings and staff-time, and development partners provide funding for development objectives and facilitate linkages to the government.

The LKDF includes a growing number of country-level PPDP projects which have led to the creation of vocational training centres in sectors such as forestry, heavy duty equipment, leather and transport.

UNIDO's Operational Strategy for LDCs 2022–2031

In 2022, UNIDO has embarked upon the formulation process of the Operational Strategy for LDCs 2022–2031. In close alignment with the DPoA, and through comprehensive development dialogues with Member States and partners, the strategy is expected to be adopted at the 10th UNIDO Ministerial Conference of the Least Developed Countries on 24th–25th November 2023 and launched at the 20th session of the UNIDO General Conference on 27th November to 1st December 2023. Further, the strategy will be operationalized through an implementation plan identifying targeted actions and innovative resource mobilization avenues.

The LDCs host about 40% of world's poor, while most are suffering from acute conflict or are recovering from one. The low level of socio-economic development in the LDCs is characterized by historically weak development capacity, low and unequally distributed income and scarcity of domestic financial resources. The strategy thus places a special emphasis on strengthening agribusiness development and food security, increasing access to clean and affordable energy, bridging the digital gap and fair supply chains. It has been adopted the six DPoA focus areas as the main pillars.

In 2022, UNIDO had 192 different projects in LDCs, with a total budget of almost US\$ 300.8 million. The European Union is the leading donor covering one third of the total budget. In addition, top funding partners included the GEF, and bilateral partners such as Italy, Sweden, Japan, Norway and Germany. In the upcoming decade, UNIDO intends to strengthen its engagement with the Green Climate Fund, in an effort to assist LDCs in mobilizing climate finance.

DOHA PROGRAMME OF ACTION (DPoA) 2022–2031



DPoA 1: Investing in people



DPoA 2: Leveraging STI



DPoA 3: Structural transformation



DPoA 4: Trade and regional Integration



DPoA 5: Building resilience



DPoA 6: Solidarity and partnerships

UNIDO Success Story



"UNIDO's technical support proved to be the springboard that enabled my company to move up the ladder in terms of quality assurance and food safety. I express all my gratitude to the UNIDO APILE team for this support and wish to see other companies benefitting from it."

Asna Said Allaoui Bacar

Comoros

The "Programme to support production, industrialisation and free trade in the Comoros" funded by the European Union aims to strengthen local production capacity and processing, supporting private sector development and entrepreneurship promotion. The project contributes to the diversification and industrialization of Comorian economy by creating decent jobs for all. The project has also served as a regional platform for sharing of experiences.



DPOA 1: Investing in people

Introduction to DPoA 1

Aiming to eradicate poverty and leave no one behind, the first focused area of the Doha Programme of Action places its emphasis in a number of industry related prospects to achieve sustainable development in LDCs. Among others it highlights the importance of skills development, food safety and security, health, clean water, sanitation and hygiene, urban development, peace, good governance and strengthened democratic processes through investing in people including women, youth and migrants.

UNIDO's Strategy

While UNIDO's work contributes to the development of each of the above mentioned action areas, its Operational strategy for LDCs 2022-2031 places particular importance to the ownership of industrial development processes at the national, regional and continental levels. In this regard, UNIDO's strategy focuses on providing technical assistance, vocational education and training, skills development, capacity building, policy support as well as connectivity with development and financial institutions, particularly for MSMEs and young entrepreneurs.

UNIDO Projects

In response to DPoA 1, some of the projects that UNIDO implements in LDCs include:

- Special Initiative - Decent work for a just transition in Senegal;
- The project for promoting youth employment through automotive maintenance skills training;
- Project to support training and skilled employment in the heavy equipment sector in the Democratic Republic of Congo;
- The Productive Sector Development Programme (PSDP) for Somalia.
- Empowering Artisanal Fishing Communities in Guinea-Bissau: The DESPAR Project's Journey Towards Sustainable Prosperity
- Emergency Assistance for Improving Livelihoods through Skills Training for Returnees, Internally Displaced People and Host Communities in Herat, Afghanistan

Special Initiative - Decent work for a just transition in Senegal



Challenge

To create 2,000 jobs for young women and men by promoting sustainable investment and private sector development in the agro-industrial and related sectors in Senegal.

Solution

Micro-level: Boosting the entrepreneurial ecosystem by advocacy, capacity mobilization and coordination of the financial and non-financial support system to support and develop businesses around initiatives to exploit local potential.

Meso-level: to support the structuring and organisation of the local private sector by setting up and operating support systems tailored to the creation and development of MSMEs in the various steps of the targeted value chains;

Macro-level: to encourage the establishment of a framework for steering, inter-actors' consultation, orientation, and strategic monitoring to define the mission of developing the local economy for businesses creation in line with the objectives of the Agropole South and the industrial parks.

Impact

The project has resulted in: 177 companies (economic initiatives) assisted; 37 dressmakers supported during the pandemic in Covid-19; 13 first-generation companies; 22 second-generation companies; 36 companies resulting from IDEA APP incubation; 3 businesses resulting from the installation of franchised kiosks; 66 companies supported under the DER/FJ-INOE co-financing mechanism; 1920 jobs created and/or consolidated (including 900 women and 1020 men, 53.48% of them young people).

Project Information	
LDCs Coverage	Senegal
Duration period	4 years
Budget	EUR 3,925,349
Donors	Germany
Partners	Local authorities; Sectoral ministries and their departments; Universities and TVET training centres (private and public); Financial and non-financial support structures; Consular chambers.
Contact information	Yvonne Lokko, Team Lead, Agro-Innovation and Bioeconomy Unit Y.Lokko@unido.org

The project for promoting youth employment through automotive maintenance skills training



Challenge

Sierra Leone’s fast-growing and young population presents a promising opportunity for socio-economic development. However, high levels of youth unemployment and underemployment persist, impacting about 70 percent of young people. One key challenge is the mismatch between the technical and vocational education and training (TVET) system and the labour market’s needs. This has led to skills shortages across strategic sectors, including the automotive repair and maintenance industry.

Solution

To bridge this skills gap and unlock the potential of Sierra Leone’s youth, this project aims to enhance the automotive and entrepreneurial skills of young people and align them to industry needs. The project supports the development of the country’s competency-based curricula and a Centre of Excellence that is equipped with upgraded facilities, modern training equipment and skilled trainers. Collaboration between the TVET institution and the industry underpins all project activities.

Impact

Through the Center of Excellence, around 200 youths will be equipped with demand-driven automotive mechanic skills that enhance their employment prospects. Further, given self-employment is a major career path for automotive mechanics, around 200 youths will be empowered with entrepreneurial skills. Increased collaboration between industry and TVET institutions will support youth’s transitions to work.

Project Information	
LDCs Coverage	Sierra Leone
Duration period	3 years
Budget	\$ 3,526,952
Donors	Japan
Partners	The Government of Sierra Leone; local private sector companies e.g. CICA Motors
Contact information	Chie Matsumoto, Industrial Development Expert, SkillsDevelopment and FairProductionUnit C.MATSUMOTO@unido.org

Project to support training and skilled employment in the heavy equipment sector in the Democratic Republic of Congo



Challenge

The heavy-duty industrial equipment sector, a key part of the Congolese mining and construction industries, holds the potential to provide high-quality employment for youth. However, skills mismatch and a lack of coordination between Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) stakeholders and employers have limited the number of qualified roles held by local workers.

Solution

To address this issue, the Governments of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Sweden, UNIDO, Volvo Group and Epiroc have joined forces in a Public Private Development Partnership (PPDP) that aims at improving youth's access to skilled employment opportunities in the heavy-duty equipment sector. The PPDP supports two vocational training centres with upgraded facilities, training equipment and modernised curricula to become Centres of Excellence.

Impact

Trainers' capacities will be enhanced to enable the delivery of quality training aligned with employer needs. Around 600 youth will receive training in the Haut-Katanga and the Lualaba provinces. Graduates will receive career support services to find employment. The project applies the Market Systems Development approach to promote the sustainability of project outcomes, facilitate systemic change in the TVET sector, and ensure that project innovations are replicated in other schools, trades, and regions.

Project Information	
LDCs Coverage	Democratic Republic of Congo
Duration period	5 years
Budget	\$10,846,809
Donors	Sweden
Partners	DRC government, Sweden, Volvo group, Epiroc
Contact information	Maximilien Pierotti, Industrial Development Expert, SkillsDevelopment and FairProductionUnit m.pierotti@unido.org

The Productive Sector Development Programme (PSDP) for Somalia



Challenge

The limited infrastructure within existing productive sector value chains restricts the potential for value addition. With predominantly informal value chains, the inadequate infrastructure within the supply chain severely hinders the scaling up and enhancement of the business eco-system. In addition, due to underdeveloped banking sector, access to financial services is the biggest challenge for entrepreneurs, especially among young people, women and vulnerable groups.

Solution

The proposed solution by the Productive Sectors Development Programme (PSDP) for Somalia is multifaceted, addressing various levels and aspects of the country's productive sector development. The project aims to implement coordinated efforts at various levels ranging from macro to micro levels to create an enabling environment for job creation, economic growth, and sustainable development. The solution focuses on establishing growth-enabling strategic policies, plans, and legislations to stimulate the productive sector, reviewing existing laws and suggesting structural reforms.

Impact

One of the major impact is establishment of Enterprise Development Units (EDUs) in six regions of Somalia providing direct support to SMEs through training, business counselling and business match-making. One of the major success of the programme is organization of Somalia Economic Conference in May 2023 with the aim of promoting Somalia as a destination for business opportunities to international companies with the goal of establishing partnership in terms of trade, dealership agreements and all other form of business relations. Al-together 109 Somali MSMEs and 9 International companies participated in the event. The programme till date has trained and business counselled more than 300 MSMEs, offering credit for more than a million USD through a programme designated credit facility.

Project Information	
LDCs Coverage	Somalia
Duration period	3 Years
Budget	\$3.7 million
Donors	Multi-Partner TF for Somalia, UNDP
Partners	Federal Government of Somalia Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Hirshabelle, South-West, Juba-land, Puntland, Galmudug Somali Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI)
Contact information	Ygor Scarcia, Industrial Development Expert, Agro-Innovation and Bioeconomy Unit y.scarcia@unido.org

Empowering Artisanal Fishing Communities in Guinea-Bissau: The DESPAR Project's Journey Towards Sustainable Prosperity



Challenge

The fisheries sector represents a key contributor to the economy in Guinea Bissau, a country that disposes of a rich maritime territory of 100 000 km² and significant fishing resources. However, rural fishermen communities struggle to create value addition and improve their income around artisanal fisheries. They lack the necessary tools and equipment to increase productivity in a sustainable manner, reduce post-harvest fish losses, improve market access and ensure food safety for end-consumers. Furthermore, community-based entrepreneurship initiatives around artisanal fisheries that could spur joint income-generation and collective efficiency are generally missing in rural coastal areas.

Solution

The DESPAR project follows a value chain approach to tackle the different challenges faced by fishermen and fishmonger women. The DESPAR project has played a significant role in strengthening economic collaboration schemes among local fishing communities and introducing new equipment, tools and techniques to foster collective efficiency.

Impact

Fisherfolk in three different regions of Guinea Bissau have been receiving technical assistance to set-up and effectively manage federations that aim at developing new income-generating activities to benefit the local community members. The 3 federations group today over 1300 fishermen and women. In order to create a new collective business initiative, the project has supported these federations to purchase and install new ice-making machines with a production capacity of up to 5 tons. Furthermore, federation members have received training to learn how to upgrade pirogues, develop better performing boats, sew improved sails and construct ice-boxes that conform to food safety requirements. The project has also focused on capacity building activities for over 300 federation members to improve safety of navigation, fishing, fish handling, distribution, and sales techniques.

Project Information	
LDCs Coverage	Guinea Bissau
Duration period	2 Years
Budget	\$1,500,000
Donors	Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF)
Partners	Ministry of Fisheries and Ministry of Commerce
Contact information	Fabio Russo, Chief, SME Development and Job Creation Unit f.russo@unido.org

Emergency Assistance for Improving Livelihoods through Skills Training for Returnees, Internally Displaced People and Host Communities in Herat, Afghanistan



Challenge

Afghanistan is the stage for one of the world's most acute humanitarian crises, a situation that is gravely magnified in Herat Province where one in three people live as forcibly displaced individuals. The challenges intensified with the takeover of the Taliban in August 2021, a group with a stark disregard for the basic rights of its citizens. This was particularly detrimental for women, who found themselves losing the gains of the past 20 years and becoming the target repressive policies, ranging from the mandatory use of the head-to-toe burqa, or chadri, to enforced accompaniment by a maharam (male escort). As a result, their foreseeable future being one of restrictions and oppressions.

Solution

The project primary objective was to bolster the economic resilience of those that were being more impacted, with a vision to anchor a measure of social stability in the mist of the uncertainty. The main initiatives undertaken included: Creation of a custom entrepreneurship training curriculum, crafted specifically in the local dialect for the vulnerable population; Increasing the operational capabilities of local micro-enterprises and family-led ventures; Promoting entrepreneurship among the most at-risk groups, with a notable focus on IDPs, who constituted a significant 75% of our outreach; and Building capacity in pivotal entities like the Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Herat Province to fortify local training capabilities.

Project Information	
LDCs Coverage	Afghanistan
Duration period	1.5 years
Budget	\$475,000
Donors	Government of Japan
Partners	Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation of Afghanistan
Contact information	Noriko Takahashi, Industrial Development Officer, SME Development and Job Creation Unit n.takahashi@unido.org

Impact

The project offered pivotal support during a highly volatile and uncertain scenario, combining the humanitarian needs with industrial development initiatives to promote stability in Herat resulting in: Training 295 individuals, including a notable 50% women, with enhanced entrepreneurial and technical skills; Provided 75 women with equipment to the total amount of \$55,000 USD that allow them to start or upgrade their business; and Offering access to training opportunities to women, especially when the Taliban restricted their access to education and their human rights were progressively denied, transcended the utilitarian value of the project. It offered them a beacon of hope in challenging times.

UNIDO Success Story



"Happy to have participated in the Digital Marketing and Online Campaigns training organized by the QUALITAN project. We were largely working traditionally. Now we can change and do our work more efficiently for lasting results. I have also learnt the importance of a brand book for guiding our work to ensure consistence and accuracy. "

Gladness Kaseka
Tanzania

The Quality and Standards Compliance Programme for the United Republic of Tanzania (QUALITAN), a European Union-funded technical assistance project, is working to strengthen the capacity of TBS in terms of knowledge and skills for its experts on the one hand, modern laboratory, and IT equipment on the other. The aim to widen market access for the Tanzanian MSMEs by improving access to standards, reducing compliance costs and enhancing consumer protection.



DPOA 2: Leveraging STI

Introduction to DPoA 2

To tackle the multi-dimensional vulnerabilities faced in LDCs through leveraging science, technology and innovation, the second focused area of the Doha Programme of Action highlights a number of key action areas related to the role of industry. These include accessibility to advanced technologies, digitalization and connectivity, promotion of private sector engagement, and building resilience towards the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR).

UNIDO's Strategy

Guided by the slogan "Progress by Innovation" UNIDO acknowledges the power of innovative solutions in building a prosperous future in the LDCs. Through strengthened international partnerships, knowledge and technology transfer, UNIDO contributes to: enhancing accessibility of advanced technologies; strengthening of national innovation systems; promoting digitalization; as well as enhancing global development assistance.

UNIDO Projects

In response to DPoA 2, some of the projects that UNIDO implements in LDCs include:

- Business incubators to support entrepreneurship and MSME creation in Somalia;
- Global Cleantech Innovation Programme (GCIP);
- Promotion of circular economy in the textile and garment sector through the sustainable management of chemicals and waste;
- PlanetGOLD programme in Burkina Faso;
- Enhancing Competitiveness: UNIDO-WACOMP Supplied Equipment to 120 Gardens.

Global Cleantech Innovation Programme (GCIP)



Challenge

The Global Cleantech Innovation Programme (GCIP) of UNIDO addresses climate change and environmental challenges by promoting the development of clean technology (cleantech) innovation and entrepreneurship, recognizing the urgent need to reduce GHG emissions and support sustainable economic growth. GCIP solution for its partner countries involves providing support to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to bridge the "valley of death" through acceleration services, facilitating financing and building cleantech ecosystems.

Solution

The Global Cleantech Innovation Programme (GCIP) works under two main pillars: Pillar 1 focuses on nurturing early-stage SMEs by offering comprehensive business acceleration services. This includes pre-accelerator, national and global accelerators, advanced accelerator, and post-acceleration support, equipping SMEs with skills to develop robust business models and facilitating connections to financing partners.

Pillar 2 aims to build, strengthen and connect Cleantech Innovation and Entrepreneurship Ecosystems (CIEEs) in participating countries. This involves capacity-building for national institutions, disseminating best practices for policy and regulatory frameworks, and promoting knowledge exchange to foster collaboration and synergies across CIEEs.

Impact

The impact of GCIP is evident in its fostering of scalable, investment-ready cleantech solutions, contributing to environmental sustainability and social equity, with a significant presence of women-led enterprises among its beneficiaries and plans for expansion. Since its inception in 2011, GCIP has already supported over 1,270+ cleantech SMEs in the Global South. The new phase of the GCIP implementation, started in 2022, focuses on supporting the development of cleantech in LDCs, including countries like Cambodia, Lesotho, Senegal, among others.

Project Information	
LDCs Coverage	Cambodia, Lesotho, Senegal
Duration period	4 Years
Budget	\$29,619,448
Donors	Global Environmental Facility, Green Climate Fund
Partners	Ministry of Energy and Meteorology (Lesotho), Ministry of Economy and Finance (Cambodia) and Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development and Ecological Transition (Senegal)
Contact information	Olga Rataj, Associate Industrial Development Officer, Climate Technologies Innovation Unit o.rataj@unido.org

Promotion of circular economy in the textile and garment sector through the sustainable management of chemicals and waste



Challenge

More than 3,500 different chemical substances are used to establish the desired properties in the processing of textiles. 750 of these chemicals are classified as hazardous for human health and 440 as hazardous for the environment. Some of these chemicals have been classified as Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) under the Stockholm Convention or Chemicals of Concern (CoCs), which are identified as an Emerging Policy Issue (EPI) under the Strategic Approach for International Chemicals Management (SAICM). 2,000 of the 3,500 chemicals used in the textiles sector were analysed, the remaining chemicals were listed as confidential and 15% of these were identified as highly hazardous.

Solution

The project seeks to strengthen the sound management of industrial chemicals and their wastes through better control, and reduction and/or elimination to promote circular economy in the textile garment sector. Furthermore, the use of persistent organic pollutants will be prevented by promoting the environmentally sound management (ESM) of POPs and waste through the introduction of BAT/BEP measures to protect human health and the environment.

Impact

Some of the delivered results include:

Strengthened regulatory and institutional framework and capacities for adoption of Circular Economy in the Textile and Garment Sector; Best Available Technology, Best Environmental Practices, Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production and Circular Economy concept are implemented through technical assistance in selected textile production facilities for the ESM and prevention / reduction of POPs, hazardous chemicals and wastes while improving process efficiency and profitability at plant level; Best Available Technology, Best Environmental Practices, Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production and Circular Economy concept are implemented through technical assistance in selected TG and recycling facilities for the reuse, recycling and ESM of textile and garment wastes; Upscaling of project results to global textile and garment sectors.

Project Information

LDCs Coverage	Ethiopia, Lesotho, Madagascar
Duration period	5 Years
Budget	EUR 10.4 million
Donors	Global Environment Facility
Partners	Regional Southern Africa, Ethiopia
Contact information	Ozunimi Iti, Industrial Development Officer, Responsible Material and Chemicals Management Unit O.Iti@unido.org

PlanetGOLD programme in Burkina Faso



Challenge

In Burkina Faso mercury is widely used in artisanal and small-scale gold mining. According to the 2017 Global mercury supply, trade and demand report that summarizes the most recent estimates of global ASGM mercury consumption and based on Artisanal Gold Council's latest data, mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining in Burkina Faso is estimated to be between 17.6 and 52.7 tonnes with an average of 35.1 tonnes, based on a 50% margin of error. Although quantitative data exists, it has not been significantly updated hence, the rough margin of error reported. The AGC estimated Burkina Faso's total mercury emissions to be 35 +/- 10 tonnes per year from ASGM, placing it among the highest countries in Africa for annual mercury emissions.

Solution

The planetGOLD programme recognizes the opportunity that exists to upgrade the practices of 10-20 million small-scale miners—sustainably boosting their productivity while improving the gold supply chain and significantly reducing global mercury pollution. Transforming the artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) sector has the potential to inject new capital into local economies and improve the lives of more than 100 million people, who rely on this industry directly or indirectly for their livelihood. ASGM should not be viewed as a problem to be stamped out but efforts are being made to bringing miners into the formal economy and encourage practices that do not use mercury and minimize negative environmental and social impacts.

Impact

The key impact areas include: Supporting efforts to integrate the ASGM sector into the formal economy, society, and regulatory system; Introducing and facilitating access to mercury-free technologies and best practices in ASGM; Facilitating miners' access to formal gold supply chains, in partnership with gold buyers and industrial users; and Piloting a range of models for access to investment and finance for small-scale miners and their communities.

Project Information	
LDCs Coverage	Burkina Faso
Duration period	4 Years
Budget	\$2 000 000
Donors	Global Environment Facility
Partners	Ministry of Environment, Green Economy and Climate Change (MEGECC), National Agency for the Supervision of Artisanal and Small-scale Mining under Ministry of Mines (ANEEMAS), Artisanal Gold Council (AGC)
Contact information	Ozunimi Iti, Industrial Development Officer, Responsible Material and Chemicals Management Unit O.Iti@unido.org

Business incubators to support entrepreneurship and MSME creation in Somalia



Challenge

Somalia faces many economic challenges, from climate change and conflict to limited infrastructure and a need for more skilled labor and technology infusion in the productive sector. While agriculture and livestock are vital for growth and poverty reduction, lack of technology interventions in these sectors are preventing growth and competitiveness. Similarly, Energy production and usage optimization is lagging behind due to imported skills and technology involved. New tactics are needed to build such diversified and resilient economy that is able to generate decent jobs and widespread benefits.

Solution

The project aims promote innovative ideas and processes for business generation using business incubation model. It looks to bolster the capacity of incubators to deliver their incubation services to the business ecosystem. The project fosters economic development through this strategic approach by generating employment opportunities, encompassing infrastructure enhancement, mentorship programs, financial backing, and strategic technology alliances.

Impact

The project since its inception, in last two years have been able to map the business incubation eco-system in Somalia with further selection of three existing business incubators whose capacity building and support in technology alliances is progressing. Five training programs including boot camps on management and governance have been concluded with 36 participants from these incubators trained. The business incubation program has started with 1st cohort of 61 incubates have been trained through 3-month long training program on enterprise management skills. The incubates in the 1st cohort is undergoing presently, a month-long program on developing business CANVAS model of their business for further selection to equipment grant under the project. The project has started the activities related to develop technology alliances with visit to four European Incubators for facilitating linkages as well as conducting a technology resource center mapping.

Project Information	
LDCs Coverage	Somalia
Duration period	4 Years
Budget	EUR 5 million
Donors	European Union
Partners	Business Incubators- iRise, HarHub, & Simad iLab, Somali Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI), EBN
Contact information	Ygor Scarcia, Industrial Development Expert, Agro-Innovation and Bioeconomy Unit y.scarcia@unido.org

Enhancing Competitiveness: UNIDO-WACOMP Supplied Equipment to 120 Gardens



Challenge

The main challenges for the agricultural sector include rising soil infertility and environmental degradation; poor quality and inadequate supply of inputs; limited value addition and commercialization; insufficient linkages and integration with local, regional and international markets, as well as other sectors of the economy such as tourism, manufacturing and services; limited and aged human capacity; weak extension/research liaison and limited extension outreach; and modest farm mechanization. The limited capacity of public institutions hinders public policy and its implementation, and a high propensity to erratic rainfalls exacerbates vulnerability to food insecurity and volatility of growth.

Solution

WACOMP The Gambia project supports the development of the horticultural VC and the sector at large, hereby strengthening import substitution for staple horticultural products such as onions and stabilizing food security. The project aims to ensure that system, organization and unit-level interventions are inclusive and sustainable. The QI system that undergirds the horticultural sector will be modernized and international best practices will be mainstreamed for greater quality compliance among upstream VC actors, particularly producers and food business operators of the onion VC.

Impact

The project is strengthening the competitiveness of The Gambia and enhancing its integration into the regional and international trading system. It is improving the performance, growth and contribution to industry, regional trade and exports of onion and other horticulture VCs. Several trainings were held with the aim to strengthen the technical competencies, capabilities and capacities of QI institutions, in particular conformity assessment service providers, as well as the compliance capacity of upstream VC actors so that products meet mandatory and voluntary quality parameters. The European Union-funded West Africa Competitiveness Programme – The Gambia (WACOMP-GM) of United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has provided equipment and materials to 120 gardens in the country, last week. They comprise of 120 bench weighing scales, 120 portable stitching machines, 120 portable onion moisture meters, 120,000 onion leno mesh bags and 200 standard plastic pallets.

Project Information	
LDCs Coverage	The Gambia
Duration period	4 Years
Budget	EUR 2,350,000
Donors	European Union
Partners	Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment; The Gambia Standards Bureau (TGSB); Food Safety and Quality Authority; MOA
Contact information	Bernard Bau, Industrial Development Officer, Competitiveness, Quality and Compliance Unit b.bau@unido.org

UNIDO Success Story



“Through the exclusive assistance provided by UNIDO, I could manage to export my avocados to Malaysia and Thailand, something I never thought I’d see happen. We are over the moon with happiness, and we, avocado farmers, believe that this success brings hopes to avocado farmers for exporting in the forthcoming avocado seasons. Thanks a lot, UNIDO”

Than Htike Aung

Myanmar

The Myanmar Trade Cluster project is an initiative funded by the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) of Switzerland and jointly implemented by UN trade cluster agencies including UNIDO, UNCTAD, ITC, ILO and UNOPS. The overall objective of the project is to improve the economic situation in the Shan State through upgrading horticultural (tea, ginger and avocado) supply capacity and sustainable tourism in view of establishing value chains leading to income generation and employment, as a contribution for poverty reduction.



DPOA 3: Structural transformation

Introduction to DPoA 3

To drive prosperity in LDCs and enable structural transformation, the third Doha Programme of Action focused area places industry at the core of its approach. Some of its key action areas include enhancing capacity-building, infrastructure development particularly in transport and energy, strengthening global and regional value chains as well as supporting private sector development.

UNIDO’s Strategy

To achieve structural transformation in LDCs, UNIDO implements a number of technical cooperation projects, provides industrial policy advice and mobilizes international partnerships. These efforts contribute to; infrastructure development, productive clusters and export consortia; promoting trade as well as regional and global value chains; strengthening productivity in rural areas; and supporting private sector development.

UNIDO Projects

In response to DPoA 3, some of the projects that UNIDO implements in LDCs include:

- Decent Work for a Just Transition;
- Agro-Food and Tourism Enterprise Recovery Programme in Cambodia (AFTER);
- From studies in accounting and management to agricultural entrepreneurship, Fatou Titine Cissoko is carving her own path.

Decent Work for a Just Transition



Challenge

Industry Parks so far developed in Ethiopia are considered successful in creating jobs, attracting FDI and improving exports, they suffer from low integration with the local economy (most raw material and intermediate goods are imported), limited technology transfer, labour issues (high rates of workers' turnover, few Ethiopians in management positions) and shortage of basic services and infrastructure for workers (housing, utilities, transportation, social services).

Solution

The project thrives to improve conditions for investors, promotes the development of small and medium enterprises, and improve business ecosystems in selected economic clusters, thereby promoting sustainable investments, which will ultimately contribute to local jobs creation.

Impact

UNIDO created more and better jobs, providing training and skills development while stimulating private sector investment in the Agro-industrial parks in Ethiopia. A total of 130 MSMEs and Farmers' Primary Cooperatives have been supported on all or some of the categories (equipment provision, workspace facilitation, enterprise specific skill training, business and financial management training, business plan development, linkage with Financial Institutions). Through this support, 894 (590 female and 95% youth) jobs created and 525 (282 female and 53% youth) jobs improved. The MSMEs and Farmers' Primary Cooperatives are engaged with select micro value chains linkage of avocado nursery, apiculture, dairy, poultry, small scale food factories and services for the Agro-parks. UNIDO, in the poultry micro value-chain, introduced an innovative nucleus out-grower scheme in collaboration with Hitossa Farmers' Cooperative Union (FCU) and Oromia IPDC. Hence, UNIDO piloted the scheme created new jobs for 25 women farmers. The project organized and built the capacity of the Farmers' Cooperative Union to provide input and technical support whereby the farmers are supplying the produce. Currently, the 25 out-growers are producing an average of 4000 eggs per day.

Project Information	
LDCs Coverage	Ethiopia and Tigray regional states
Duration period	4 Years
Budget	EUR 3,485,148
Donors	Germany
Partners	Ministry of Industry, Regional Industrial Parks Development Corporations, Farmers Unions, MSMEs, Private investors in Agro-parks.
Implementing entities	Regional Industrial Park Development Corporations
Contact information	Yvonne Lokko, Team Lead, Agro-Innovation and Bioeconomy Unit Y.Lokko@unido.org

Agro-Food and Tourism Enterprise Recovery Programme in Cambodia (AFTER)



Challenge

The global Covid-19 pandemic put an immense strain on societies and economies of countries around the globe. Industry was affected by this crisis from both the supply and demand side, and the Covid-19 has already disrupted supply chains globally in several ways. Cambodia was not no exception, as its GDP growth was expecting a contraction 4.0% in 2020 due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. This led to unemployment, negative impact on macroeconomy, industry, food security, and SMEs.

Solution

Recognizing the important contribution of agro-food and tourism MSMEs to economic development and employment in Cambodia, and taking into consideration the Strategic Development Plan for Cambodian Agro industries (2019-2030), the Agro-Food and Tourism Enterprise Recovery Programme (AFTER) goal was to increase the resilience of Cambodian agro-food and tourism MSMEs in the context of Covid-19 pandemic, through the following interventions: MSMEs and Cooperatives from agro-food and tourism enhance their products and services; MSMEs and Cooperatives apply safety and hygiene standards and measures; National policies are developed to support post Covid-19 recovery of agro-food and tourism MSMEs.

Project Information	
LDCs Coverage	Cambodia
Duration period	20 Months
Budget	1,475,000
Donors	Switzerland
Partners	Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation; Ministry of Tourism; Ministry of Economy and Finance
Contact information	Rafik Feki Industrial Development Officer, Division of Digital Transformation & AI Strategies R.Feki@unido.org

Impact

As a results, the project contributed to increasing the resilience of Cambodian agro-food and tourism Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the context of COVID-19 pandemic, through the technical assistance it provided to the MSMEs. In total, 360 agro-food and tourism MSMEs, cooperatives and communities supported, and 132 agro-food & tourism MSMEs and cooperatives performance, products, and services were enhanced and upgraded. In addition, 24 new product or service developed/enhanced. This also led to 73% of staff retainment in the beneficiary enterprises. In addition to that, the capacity of 75 government officials was increased in relation to planning the implementation of industry recovery plans or sustaining and upscaling the impact of the project within the targeted sectors and beyond.

From studies in accounting and management to agricultural entrepreneurship, Fatou Titine Cissoko is carving her own path



Challenge

The project aims to address the main challenges preventing the exports of Guinean pineapples, such as limited compliance to regional and international standards and norms; restricted access to key agricultural inputs; low performance of smallholders, support services and local processors.

Solution

REFILA's approach consists of strengthening quality standards, business upgrading, enhanced business linkages, entrepreneurship development for job creation, and technical assistance in the field of agri-business.

Impact

A new National Industrial Development policy was adopted to promote a conducive environment for agribusiness development, a national observatory for economic competitiveness was established and 24 norms were developed and integrated in the Guinean regulatory framework for food quality and safety. REFILA empowered producers' organizations and private structure through organizational support, access to key inputs, workshop and strategic business partnerships. It established a women-led consortium operating in pineapple processing and is successfully supporting the laboratory of the Office National du Contrôle Qualité (ONCQ) towards ISO 17025 accreditation (for increased market access). Organizations of local producers were supplied with irrigation systems, fertilizers and 12,000 eco-friendly packaging.

Project Information

LDCs Coverage	Republic of Guinea
Duration period	4 years
Budget	EUR 4.999.000
Donors	European Union
Partners	Ministry of Trade, Industry and SMEs; Ministry of Agriculture
Contact information	Rafik Feki Bernard Bau, Industrial Development Officer, Competitiveness, Quality and Compliance Unit b.bau@unido.org

UNIDO Success Story



"Observing the execution of an external audit was an indispensable and crucial step for us to know how things happen in reality, how to prepare and adapt our entire management and operation for accreditation"

Joselaine Gomes

Guinea-Bissau

The EU-funded project "Improving the competitiveness of the mango value chain in Guinea-Bissau: Production, Local Processing and Export Support", WACOMP-GB, announced on July 12, 2023, the launch of the innovative financing program, IDEA FIN, a financial mechanism to support nano and microfinance for Entrepreneurs, Micro-enterprises and Cooperatives working in agribusiness in Guinea-Bissau for a total amount of 100,000 Euros.

The expected results of this initiative are the improvement of the agribusiness sector in Guinea-Bissau, specifically: more formalized businesses; increased business productivity and competitiveness; improved business management; and increased livelihoods for promoters.



DPOA 4: Trade & regional integration

Introduction to DPoA 4

To enhance regional integration and international trade the fourth focused area of the Doha Programme of Action promotes a number of industrial related activities. These include the facilitation of trade through market access, technical assistance, capacity building, intellectual property rights, agricultural development and e-commerce.

UNIDO's Strategy

To enhance trade and regional integration in LDCs, UNIDO's work focuses on: providing technical assistance and capacity building; supporting development of regional value chains; promoting e-commerce and digitalization including for private sector entities; facilitating regional integration through supporting Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

UNIDO Projects

In response to DPoA 4, some of the projects that UNIDO implements in LDCs include:

- WACOMP Guinea-Bissau: Improving the Competitiveness of the Mango Value-Chain in Guinea Bissau: Production, Local Processing and Export Support;
- Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technologies (TEST) for the strengthening of industries# environmental/social responsibility capacities in the Niger Basin;
- Championing Sustainable Growth for Liberia's Cocoa Sector;
- Empowering Tanzanian MSMEs: QUALITAN's Journey Towards Quality and Standards Compliance;
- PROMOVE Comércio — Building Competitiveness for Exports;
- Fostering Sustainable Production for Market Competitiveness and International Trade in the Avocado Sector.

WACOMP Guinea-Bissau: Improving the Competitiveness of the Mango Value-Chain in Guinea Bissau: Production, Local Processing and Export Support



Challenge

The agri-food sector is the engine of the Bissau-Guinean economy and the main source of public revenue. Agriculture contributes to 50% of the GDP and employs 85% of the active population. In the agricultural domain, the mango value chain is among the key areas to diversify the bases of the Bissau-Guinean economy. The Project "Improving the Competitiveness of the Mango Value Chain in Guinea Bissau: Production, Local Processing and Export Support" aims to improve the performance of the mango value-chain in Guinea-Bissau and promote its growth, by stimulating its contribution to local industry, regional trade, international trade and job creation in the country.

Solution

In order to contribute to the development of the mango value chain in Guinea-Bissau, an integrated strategy has been implemented along the value chain, encompassing, but not limited to, actions to increase primary production through renovation of orchards with pest-resistant varieties, improving the harvest process, catalyzing the processing/value-adding activities including mobile units, developing the quality infrastructure, promoting the entrepreneurship and enhancing access to finance at affordable conditions. These actions represent an opportunity to generate hundreds of direct and indirect jobs along the value chain, with particular emphasis on women linked to primary production and processing.

Impact

Mango orchards renovated (thirteen thousand mango tree seedlings of improved varieties resistant to pest transplanted to 18 gardens in different regions of Guinea-Bissau); Five lots of mango and derivatives processing equipment purchased, including two containerized mobile units about to be commissioned, generating dozens of jobs; National Quality Policy approved, being an umbrella document for the Government; Two lots of different laboratory equipment acquired and participation held in interlaboratory tests with success; Installation of two IDEA Incubation Centers with 60 projects being incubated, with impact in jobs generation; Two financial mechanisms promoted, with impact in access to finance in the beneficiary regions; More than 80 training/awareness sessions delivered since the beginning of the project, boosting the local technical capacity to overcome mango value-chain challenges.

Project Information	
LDCs Coverage	Guinea-Bissau
Duration period	3 years
Budget	EUR 4.080.000
Donors	European Union, Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation
Partners	Ministry of Trade and Industry Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Producers Association, Conformity Assessment Entities, Association of Women in Economic Activities
Implementing entities	Regional Industrial Park Development Corporations
Contact information	Germaine Fatime Diakhaby, Expert national junior communication, Competitiveness, Quality and Compliance Unit g.diakhaby@unido.org

Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technologies (TEST) for the strengthening of industries environmental/social responsibility capacities in the Niger Basin



Challenge

The main challenge and objective of the project was to reduce wastewater discharges and pollution loads in the Niger River Basin in partnership with the industrial sector who rely on this natural resource. Three main factors have been identified as contributing factors to the decrease of water quality in the Niger River: industrial, mining, and agricultural pollution.

Solution

Implementing the transfer of environmentally sound technology (TEST) developed by UNIDO, provided “audit” services into the resource use of industries, and facilitated their transfer to resource efficient and clean production (RECP) methods through technology and knowledge transfer. The project has also facilitated the adoption of harmonized ‘Standards for Discharge of Pollutants in the Niger River’, an important regulatory instrument of enhanced transboundary pollution control.

Impact

The TEST-Niger project, funded by GEF, and executed by UNIDO, has helped to improve the competitiveness, environmental, social and economic performance of 19 pilot industrial SME enterprises through process optimization, reduced resource use and pollution generation. Utilizing the pollution “hotspots” method, 426 polluting industrial enterprises were identified in the Niger River Basin, 19 of which participated as pilot companies in the TEST Roll-out in the Niger Basin. One of the project’s many impactful achievements was the adoption of common ‘Standards for Discharge of Pollutants in the Niger River’ by all member states of the Niger River Basin Authority (NBA), an important policy instrument for strengthening transboundary pollution control across the basin. At the same time, the harmonization enables industries to remove the environmental regulatory compliance barrier between states and expand their activities in the Niger basin countries, including within the free trade ECOWAS area.

Project Information	
LDCs Coverage	Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Niger, and Guinea
Duration period	6 years
Budget	\$2,564,827
Donors	Global Environmental Facility, NBA, OSS
Implementing entities	United Nations Development Program, United Nations Environmental Program
Contact information	Natalie Degger, Industrial Development Officer, Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency Unit n.degger@unido.org www.test-niger.com

Championing Sustainable Growth for Liberia's Cocoa Sector



Challenge

On 31 May 2023, the EU adopted Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 to combat deforestation and forest degradation associated with certain commodities, including cocoa. In a similar vein, the European Commission has already introduced a draft proposal on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence (CSD) in February 2022. This proposal aims to compel companies to evaluate social and environmental impacts within their supply chains and institute measures to prevent and mitigate adverse effects. Within the cocoa industry, this takes on paramount significance due to persistent sustainability concerns, encompassing issues like child labour, deforestation, and insufficient farmer income.

Solution

The emerging EU legislation therefore presents a call to action for Liberian cocoa stakeholders, and UNIDO's first stride involved raising awareness, building local capacities and fostering partnerships. In October 2022, UNIDO partnered with the National Cocoa Public-Private Partnership Platform (NC3P) to hold a technical committee meeting centered on market opportunities for Liberian cocoa, particularly in relation to EU regulations. UNIDO is also leveraging the experience from Ghana to promote professionalization of Liberian cooperatives, enhancing their record-keeping and traceability measures. Two Liberian cooperatives participated in Ghana cluster conference organised by UNIDO to learn from best practices in the region. UNIDO also invited experts from the Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD) to collaborate with their Liberian peers in aligning cocoa production practices with the EU regulations.

Impact

In this context, public or private certification schemes are also considered risk mitigation tools among international buyers, and UNIDO already supported the certification of two cocoa cooperatives in Liberia for organic requirements. These two cooperatives, encompassing 1,026 farmers, have received their certification as a well-deserved recognition of their dedication and commitment to producing high-quality, organic cocoa.

Project Information	
LDCs Coverage	Liberia
Duration period	5 years
Budget	EUR 7,205,106
Donors	Sweden
Implementing entities	Ministry of Agriculture of Liberia
Contact information	Fabio Russo, Chief, SME Development and Job Creation Unit f.russo@unido.org

Empowering Tanzanian MSMEs: QUALITAN's Journey Towards Quality and Standards Compliance



Challenge

The Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) in Tanzania face a myriad of constraints that make it difficult for them to conform to standards requirements and hence hinder their access to both local and international markets. These include unpredictable business regulatory environment, high compliance costs, challenges in tax administration, persistent skills and knowledge gaps, and a lack of access to financial services, among others.

Solution

The Quality and Standards Compliance Programme for the United Republic of Tanzania (QUALITAN), a European Union-funded technical assistance project, is working to strengthen the capacity of TBS in terms of knowledge and skills for its experts on the one hand, modern laboratory, and IT equipment on the other. The aim to widen market access for the Tanzanian MSMEs by improving access to standards, reducing compliance costs and enhancing consumer protection.

Impact

Some of the impacts of the project include: 160 TBS technical staff capacitated through trainings, digital marketing and conducting of online campaigns, standards conformity assessment services, including inspection, certification, and business plans development for 8 testing and 1 metrology labs; 97 technical staff of TBS testing and calibration services enhanced through the training on ISO 17025, ISO 17043, ISO 13528; 25 TBS inspectors capacitated on ISO/IEC 17020 and ISO 19011 and development of QM and TM leading to accreditation of the inspection system at TBS; 20 staff from food chemistry lab benefited from a study tour to the National Metrology Institute of South Africa on test methods for pesticide residues, drug residues, aflatoxins and heavy metals using LCMSMS, ICP-OES, HPLC and GCMSMS; 20 staff from food chemistry lab benefited from a study tour to the National Metrology Institute of South Africa on test methods for pesticide; 03 staff of TBS benefited from study tour to Ghana, on digital transformation of standards development and GSP; 100 business plans developed for the Technical Committees on standards development; and 173 MSMEs benefitted from knowledge on market requirement quality and standards through outreach activities.

Project Information	
LDCs Coverage	United Republic of Tanzania
Duration period	2 years
Budget	EUR 7,000,000
Donors	Sweden
Partners	Ministry of Industry and Trade and Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS)
Contact information	Alejandro Rivera Rojas, Industrial Development Officer, SME Development and Job Creation Unit A.RIVERA-ROJAS@unido.org

PROMOVE Comércio – Building Competitiveness for Exports



Challenge

International trade agreements offer reduced tariffs and liberalisation of cross-border trade. However, developing and least-developed countries like Mozambique find it challenging to access the benefits of these agreements. One of the challenges contributing to this is the limited national capacity to comply with the requirements of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) agreements. Therefore, a robust and internationally recognised Quality Infrastructure System (QIS) must be developed and strengthened.

Solution

With a specific focus on specific sub-sectors and value chains (VCs), including processed fruit, nuts, oilseeds and essential oils, PROMOVE Comércio simultaneously strengthens the supply of key public and private services related to quality infrastructure and business development services (BDS) offered to small and medium enterprises (SMEs), identify and address their quality infrastructure needs, stimulating their demand of these services by the SMEs, thereby increasing access to regional and international markets.

Impact

Among the main results achieved are: The National Institute for Standardization and Quality (INNOQ, IP) received substantial support for developing and reviewing national standards and extending accredited certification services, assessing metrology services provided, and providing training courses in subjects related to Good Standardisation Processes, ISO900, ISO22000, HACCP, sampling techniques); The government of Mozambique received support for implementing and disseminating the National Quality Policy (NQP); Over 6 testing laboratories received technical assistance for extending the scope of accredited chemical and microbiological testing services available to producers and exporters for agro-products, fisheries, and aquaculture products; Over 300 SMEs and at least 10 public and private business development services (BDSs) providers were trained on several export-related topics; Over 20 SMEs received support to conduct internal analysis and develop and implement a work plan for addressing internal gaps limiting their competitiveness and internationalisation etc.

Project Information	
LDCs Coverage	Mozambique
Duration period	4 years
Budget	EUR 6,500,000
Donors	European Union
Partners	Ministry of Industry and Commerce
Contact information	Alejandro Rivera Rojas, Industrial Development Officer, SME Development and Job Creation Unit A.RIVERA-ROJAS@unido.org

Fostering Sustainable Production for Market Competitiveness and International Trade in the Avocado Sector



Challenge

Avocado production in South Shan, Myanmar is quite robust, contributing to economic growth and improvement of livelihood of the local communities. However, due to the lack of internationally recognized certification, the sector encounters difficulties in meeting sustainability standards, demonstrating quality, and accessing more foreign markets. The COVID-19 pandemic and the overall political and social adversity in the country brought new challenges to the sector in terms of international trade.

Solution

UNIDO collaborated with the Myanmar Avocado Producer and Exporter Association (MAVO) to capacitate 36 avocado farms to adopt sustainable production practices and implement internationally recognized sustainability standards. Based on market requirements, UNIDO supported 50 avocado farms by providing GLOBALG.A.P training sessions, conducting gaps assessment and addressing non-compliance, to assist them in effectively implementing international sustainability standards. Resulted from the intervention, 36 avocado farmers became successfully the first-ever GLOBALG.A.P-certified avocado farms in Myanmar, allowing them to demonstrate quality of their products in the international market.

Project Information	
LDCs Coverage	Myanmar
Duration period	5 years
Budget	EUR 1,366,616
Donors	State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), Switzerland
Partners	ILO, ITC, UNCTAD and UNOPS
Contact information	Cong Wu, Industrial Development Officer, Competitiveness, Quality and Compliance Unit c.wu@unido.org

Impact

The intervention of the Myanmar Trade Cluster project in the avocado value chain, led by UNIDO, stands as a compelling example of the significant potential for the development of the avocado industry in Myanmar as it creates a foundation for export-oriented businesses. During the 2022-2023 season, accompanied by the support of UNIDO and market outreach efforts by MAVO, the 36 certified avocado farms realized an export of 35,000 kg of avocados to Malaysia, totaling a value of 133,000 USD. Simultaneously, avocados were also successfully exported to Thailand, generating an export income of 1,904,700 USD. Access to international market at premium prices contributes to adding value to the local supply chain, increasing income and generating more jobs. It is evident that market competitiveness of avocado producers has seen a substantial boost through the implementation of sustainable production practices in the avocado sector, facilitating their penetration into the international market.

UNIDO Success Story



“The GEF funded project and subsequent support from UNIDO and long-term partners like Climate Analytics and International Institute for Environment and Development, play a crucial role in facilitating the establishment of our permanent secretariat.”

Ms. Madeleine Diouf Sarr

LDC Chair on Climate Change

UNIDO seeks to strengthen the institutional structures of the LDC Group on climate change, enabling them to enhance their participation and advocacy for LDC positions in United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) processes and decision-making on climate change adaptation and mitigation, as well as to access climate finance. The project management unit (PMU) is based in Vienna, Austria at UNIDO Headquarters.



DPOA 5: Building resilience

Introduction to DPoA 5

To build resilience and address the challenges deriving from climate change, environmental degradation and the COVID-19, the fifth focused area of the Doha Programme of Action recognizes the important role that industry can play. These includes through development of pharmaceutical manufacturing, climate adaptation, natural resources management as well as financial and technological access to address these challenges.

UNIDO's Strategy

UNIDO's work places utmost priority to building resilience against future shocks. Its work includes: building sustainable and inclusive recovery from COVID-19; developing pharmaceutical manufacturing and supporting health industry; enhancing climate-resilience and adaptation capacities; supporting sustainable management of natural resources; enhancing climate-financing and technology accessibility.

UNIDO Projects

In response to DPoA 5, some of the projects that UNIDO implements in LDCs include:

- West Africa Competitiveness Programme Senegal: Resilience and recovery programme for micro, small and medium enterprises in Senegal (P2R);
- Enhancing Lesotho's private sector readiness for a clean energy transition;
- Promotion of climate adaptation technology and business model innovations and entrepreneurship in Sierra Leone;
- Reducing vulnerability and enhancing resilience to climate change through promoting innovation transfer and large-scale deployment of adaptation-oriented technologies in priority agriculture value chains and creating jobs;
- Building Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change in the Essential Oil sector in Madagascar;
- A private investment facility for nature-based coastal climate resilience in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs);
- Strengthening Engagement and Action by the Least Developed Countries on Climate Change.

West Africa Competitiveness Programme Senegal: Resilience and recovery programme for micro, small and medium enterprises in Senegal (P2R)



Challenge

Like all countries, Senegal has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic through several channels. MSMEs, which contribute an estimated 40 per cent to the gross domestic product and are a major source of employment, have been particularly affected in many sectors. Still reeling from the effects of the pandemic, MSMEs need targeted support to build resilience. Special attention must also be given to women and young people who make up a significant portion of this workforce.

Solution

Under the umbrella of the European Union-funded Senegal Component of WACOMP, the project supports a rapid and sustainable recovery and enhances the resilience of 217 MSMEs and their employees (including at least 30 per cent led by women and 20 per cent by young people) in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in the most affected sectors such as accommodation and restaurants, transport, fishing and fish farming, the pharmaceutical industry and the agrifood industry. The project also upgrades six laboratories to face the health crisis and address the needs of MSMEs. Finally, it supports technological innovation to develop the means to fight COVID-19 by adopting the necessary processes and equipment/materials.

Project Information	
LDCs Coverage	Senegal
Duration period	3 years
Budget	EUR 2 000 000
Donors	European Union
Partners	Ministère en charge du commerce et des PME
Contact information	Rafik Feki Industrial Development Officer, Division of Digital Transformation & AI Strategies r.feki@unido.org

Impact

During the first two years of implementation the project already had considerable impact on the ground with the following activities: Summary analysis of the economic situation and the Government's priorities, with a view to specifying the conditions for selecting the MSMEs to be targeted by the project; 303 quick-diagnostic MSMEs carried out and selection of 217 eligible MSMEs; Upgrading and modernization of the selected companies: elaboration of recovery and resilience plans for the 217 selected companies, support for 29 companies in GHP and GMP, support for 90 companies in digital marketing, and support for 20 companies in obtaining financial facilities; Workshops on various themes (packaging, clean production and energy saving in agrifood businesses, market access, circular economy) etc.

Enhancing Lesotho’s private sector readiness for a clean energy transition



Challenge

Lesotho’s private sector has limited capacity to innovate, develop and deploy home-grown technology and business solutions to address climate and energy challenges. While there may be technology innovations and business ideas stemming from universities, research labs, and SMEs, there is no system or culture of support at the national level to nurture a pool of climate and clean energy (cleantech) solutions into profitable business models, which can provide competitive alternatives to carbon-intensive options in the market.

Solution

To address the above-mentioned challenges, this proposal aims to enhance the readiness of Lesotho’s private sector to develop, commercialize, and invest in climate and clean energy (cleantech) solutions, as well as to maximize the economic growth opportunities embedded therein, while supporting Lesotho in reaching its NDC targets.

Impact

The project aims to: Strengthen private sector’s capacity, systems and networks to support the planning, programing, and implementation of climate finance activities; Develop a strategy to create a conducive environment for attracting private sector investment for cleantech solutions; Develop a pipeline of investment-grade solutions, and two concept notes to leverage private sector financing for large-scale deployment of cleantech solutions. By strengthening the cleantech ecosystem of Lesotho, and by enhancing the interest and understanding of Lesotho’s private sector to invest in climate and energy action, Lesotho’s private sector will be better equipped and ready to absorb and leverage climate finance with home-grown innovative solutions, and play a catalytic role in the market towards a clean energy transition.

Project Information	
LDCs Coverage	Lesotho
Duration period	30 months
Budget	\$ 700,000
Donors	Green Climate Fund
Partners	Department of Energy, Ministry of Natural Resources
Contact information	Olga Rataj, Associate Industrial Development Officer, Climate Technologies Innovation Unit o.rataj@unido.org

Promotion of climate adaptation technology and business model innovations and entrepreneurship in Sierra Leone



Challenge

Sierra Leone is amongst the most vulnerable African countries to the increasing frequency of climate change impacts and has been ranked as the third most vulnerable after Bangladesh and Guinea Bissau. Sierra Leone's economy is heavily dependent on natural resources, as observed in 2019, agriculture represented 55% of the GDP, while the service sector represented 37% and the industry sector 7%. The promotion of economic diversification and competitiveness is one of the Medium-Term National Development Plan (MTNDP) 2019-2023 objectives. Although the economy was showing signs of recovery, the COVID-19 pandemic has unsettled the fragile economy, by disrupting demand and supply and restricting trade and production.

Solution

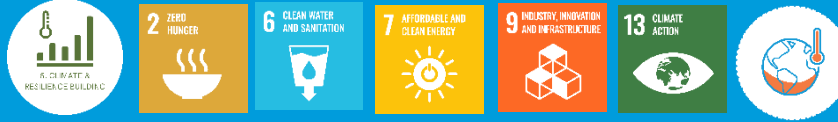
The project aims to implement a series of project components and activities that will deliver innovation, knowledge transfer and large-scale deployment of climate change adaptation-oriented TPS in the WEF sectors by the private sector (MSMEs and financial institutions) as well as boost job creation in order to reduce vulnerability, enhance resilience and the adaptive capacity of the vulnerable segments of the population including women, youth, smallholder farmers/fishers, small entrepreneurs and MSMEs, in rural and urban areas of Sierra Leone.

Impact

Reducing vulnerability and increasing resilience of vulnerable populations by supporting MSME*-driven innovation, transfer and large-scale deployment of adaptation technologies, products and services (TPS) in the water, agriculture and energy sectors in Sierra Leone.

Project Information	
LDCs Coverage	Sierra Leone
Duration period	7 years
Budget	\$10,000,000
Donors	LDC - Less-Developed Countries Fund (GEF)
Partners	Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency (SMEDA)
Contact information	Alois Mhlanga, Chief, Climate Technologies Innovation Unit a.mhlanga@unido.org

Reducing vulnerability and enhancing resilience to climate change through promoting innovation transfer and large-scale deployment of adaptation-oriented technologies in priority agriculture value chains and creating jobs



Challenge

Despite being the second-largest country in Africa, with an approximate area of 2.3 million square kilometers (890,000 sqmi), and being endowed with rich natural resources, the DRC is the second-poorest country in the world. Although climate change related impacts have been so far less pronounced compared to neighboring countries, DRC is placed 12th on the global ranking of the most vulnerable countries and ranked as the 5th least ready country – meaning that it is highly vulnerable to, yet extremely unready to adapt to climate change effects. It is projected that by 2050, the average annual temperature of the DRC is likely to increase from 2.5 to 3.7 degrees Celsius. Furthermore, it is projected that seasonal and prolonged droughts will occur more frequently and annual precipitation will significantly decrease for most parts of country. Furthermore, extreme weather events are predicted to increase in intensity and frequency.

Solution

Private sector capacity and resources are crucial to ensure a transfer of technologies and appropriate innovations for deploying climate adaptation solutions applicable to local needs and requirements. As private sector entities have more decentralized structures and operations, they are able to provide localized solutions on a commercial and sustainable basis. MSMEs are considered as the driving force for inclusive economic and social development, job creation and poverty reduction and play a crucial role for sustainable development, gender equality and environmental protection.

Impact

To reduce vulnerability and enhance resilience to climate change through promoting innovation, transfer and large-scale deployment of adaptation-oriented technologies and services by SMEs and create jobs.

Project Information	
LDCs Coverage	Democratic Republic of Congo
Duration period	7 years
Budget	\$ 10,000,000
Donors	Global Environment Facility (GEF), LDC Least Developed Countries Fund
Partners	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development
Contact information	Alois Mhlanga, Chief, Climate Technologies Innovation Unit a.mhlanga@unido.org

Building Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change in the Essential Oil sector in Madagascar



Challenge

Madagascar is also one of the world’s poorest countries economically and yet known for being the richest in biodiversity. It contains at least 13,000 plant species, of which more than 80% are endemic and 3,500 are reported to have medicinal properties. In accordance with the collected information, 74% of its population lives in rural areas, and 78% of the rural population lives in poverty. Madagascar is also best known for its tropical rainforests and is among the richest countries in essential oils (EOs). The EO producers are facing various barriers and challenges in their efforts to address their adaptation and resilience needs, being lack of information and knowledge on climate change, poor regulatory framework, and institutional setup and coordination, including low capacity and lack of finance.

Solution

The project aims to reduce vulnerability and increase resilience to climate change of the essential oils (EO) value chain by promoting the deployment of innovative adaptation technologies and services.

Impact

By engaging the private sector and supporting the development of entrepreneurs, start-ups and Micro-, Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) to transform their innovative adaptation technologies and solutions into market ready products for large-scale deployment, the project aims to contribute to build a diversified, inclusive and climate-resilient EO value chains in Madagascar.

Project Information	
LDCs Coverage	Madagascar
Duration period	4 years
Budget	\$2,000,000
Donors	European Union, Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation
Partners	National Coordination Bureau for Climate Change and REDD+ (BNCC-REDD+) - Ministry of Environment & Sustainable Development (MEDD)
Contact information	Alois Mhlanga, Chief, Climate Technologies Innovation Unit a.mhlanga@unido.org

A private investment facility for nature-based coastal climate resilience in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs)



Challenge

Coastal LDCs are likely to suffer disproportionately from loss and damage caused by climate-related disasters because of their limited capacities to respond and less means to prepare and mitigate against climate related natural hazards. Barriers also seen in private sector investment in existing nature-based projects, that include: 1) lack of technical capacity to make a business case; 2) limited understanding within the global private sector on how to invest in nature-based solutions; 3) absence of a global project pipeline and global match-making connectivity; and 4) lack of awareness of companies, and methodological frameworks to assess business value.

Solution

The project's intervention is to identify existing local projects in LDCs that are under implementation to build their capacity to attract private sector investment, and to increase awareness of global private sector companies of the business benefits from supporting nature-based coastal adaptation projects, mobilise them and facilitate commitments to invest in these projects.

Impact

The project will develop and launch a global facility to mobilise private sector investments to fund nature-based solutions to enhance climate resilience of coastal communities in LDCs, which will ultimately benefit for at least 240,000 beneficiaries in local communities and protect at least 320,000 hectares of coastal ecosystem.

Project Information

LDCs Coverage	Bangladesh, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Madagascar, Mozambique, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands and Tanzania
Duration period	2.5 years
Budget	\$ 1,044,593
Donors	Global Environmental Facility
Executing Entity	Earth Security
Contact information	Haruka Yoshida, Industrial Development Expert, Climate Technologies Innovation Unit h.yoshida@unido.org

Strengthening Engagement and Action by the Least Developed Countries on Climate Change



Challenge

Over the years the LDC Group on Climate Change has undertaken various efforts to formalize their framework to maintain institutional memory and facilitate coordination efforts. These efforts aim to strengthen their engagement and participation in UNFCCC processes and implementation of the Paris Agreement and better translate the global climate decisions at national level for more effective actions on the ground. With the 2020 Charter outlining among others the Group’s mission, goals, conditions of membership, and the establishment of a Permanent Secretariat, the Group already put a basis to its formalisation.

Solution

The establishment of a Permanent Secretariat is seen as an opportunity to improve internal coordination and external relations with better distribution of administrative tasks, further enhancement of capacity and knowledge in the climate field, and opportunities to access climate funding. The overall objective is to provide institutional support in setting up a permanent secretariat to help the LDC Group on Climate Change to strengthen their engagement and participation in UNFCCC processes and implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Impact

The LDC permanent secretariat is established and empowered by robust governance structures and funding mechanisms. It centralizes functions such as administrative support, communication, and logistics, offering a strategic conduit to bridge funding gaps, stabilize human resources, and enhance institutional memory. This allows the LDC Chair and the LDC Group on Climate Change members to gain the necessary bandwidth to focus on their specialized areas, maximizing their impact and enabled to support their country to translate global climate decisions into actions at the local and regional level.

Project Information	
LDCs Coverage	Least Developed Countries
Duration period	36 months
Budget	\$ 1,826,484
Donors	Global Environmental Facility
Executing Entity	UNIDO, Climate Analytics (CA) and the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)
Contact information	Martin Lugmayr, Sustainable Energy Expert, Energy Systems and Decarbonization Unit M.LUGMAYR@unido.org

UNIDO Success Story



“With UNIDO support I could develop my managerial skills and receiving the credit through UNIDO fund helped me to expand my business, I am very thankful to UNIDO”

Mr. Mohamed Dhicis Abdi

Somalia

The Somalia Productive Sectors Development Programme (PSDP) is led by UNIDO in cooperation with FAO and ILO and aims at promoting interventions at the macro, meso and micro levels of the Somali economy to promote infrastructure investment and capital investment, stimulate sustainable production, avoiding post-harvest losses, developing markets access for an inclusive economic growth and job opportunities for all.

The proposed solution for Somalia through this programme, is multifaceted, addressing various levels and aspects of the country's productive sector development. The project aims to implement coordinated efforts at various levels ranging from macro to micro levels to create an enabling environment for job creation, economic growth, and sustainable development.



DPOA 6: Solidarity & partnerships

Introduction to DPoA 6

To enable sustainable graduation of LDCs, the sixth focused area of the Doha Programme of Action emphasizes the important role that the reinvigorated partnerships and international solidarity can play. These includes action areas related to the mobilization of the resources, the increase of public and external finance, Foreign Direct Investments as well as debt sustainability. It also includes action areas on the reduction of remittances as well as enhancement of data availability, implementation and monitoring at regional and global level.

UNIDO's Strategy

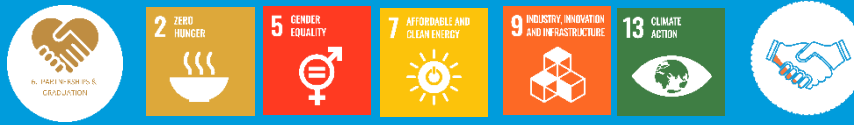
To ensure a path towards sustainable and irreversible graduation for LDCs, UNIDO's work: supports domestic resource mobilization; investment promotions, especially Foreign Direct Investment; extends international support measures; ensures availability and use of data to measure and track progress in SDGs and the DPoA goals and targets.

UNIDO Projects

In response to DPoA 6, some of the projects that UNIDO implements in LDCs include:

- Capacity development program for investment promotion agencies of least developed countries;
- African-Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Business Friendly: Supporting value chains through inclusive policies, investment promotion and alliances;
- Empowering Comoros: A Path to Sustainable Economic Growth and Trade.

Capacity development program for investment promotion agencies of least developed countries



Challenge

FDI is an important potential source of development finance for least developed countries (LDCs). Potential investors lack information, time and capacity to appraise existing opportunities in LDCs. Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) should be a channel of information between the business community and policy makers in areas of particular concern to investors. Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 crisis, IPAs in LDCs are struggling to redefine business activities/services on digital platforms and continue have difficulties in establishing a dynamic online presence.

Solution

UNIDO developed and delivered capacity building modules on “SDG-related investment project appraisal in promising value chains” and gender lens investing. The IPA capacity building responds to the specific contexts of LDC with practical and innovative forms of providing investment-related training and coaching support. 3 capacity building sessions were delivered to over 140 participants (45% female) from IPAs and government ministries in LDCs to develop project-specific investment profiles in strategic value chains and make them readily available for subsequent promotional efforts to prospective investors.

Project Information	
LDCs Coverage	40 LDCs
Duration period	2 years
Budget	\$ 58,850
Donors	Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF)
Partners	Investment Promotion Agencies in selected LDCs
Contact information	Stefan Kratzsch, Team Lead, Sustainability Standards & Responsible Business Unit s.kratzsch@unido.org

Impact

Improved institutional capacity and integration of trade and investment in LDCs to attract and retain investments that contributes to sustainable development; Closer cooperation between implementing partners for reinforcing capacity building outcomes through methodological harmonization and integration.

African-Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Business Friendly: Supporting value chains through inclusive policies, investment promotion and alliances



Challenge

Despite the growth in FDI flows into African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, understanding the factors that influence and augment the positive impact has a far reaching importance to achieve industrialization and technological upgrading. The roles of investment promotion agencies (IPAs) have in recent years dynamically evolved to target higher volumes of “quality” or SDG FDI. IPAs have however been rather reactive, without essential skills to effectively identify and attract global investors let alone to forge sustainable linkages between domestic and foreign investment for enhanced economic, social and environmental outcomes. The IPAs’ role in policy advocacy is impaired due to lack of collaboration with other investment promotion institutions.

Solution

UNIDO delivered an array of solutions to enhance IPAs’ adoption of modern digital systems in investment promotion and facilitation to deliver faster, better and more accurate services to potential and existing investors. The three LDCs Ethiopia, Zambia and Senegal benefitted cumulatively from 19 full-fledged trainings, 39 capacity building sessions for effective FDI monitoring and 34 technical support sessions on investment opportunity development for showcasing investment projects on UNIDO’s [Invest-in-ACP Platform](#).

Impact

In Ethiopia, the project has resulted in about more than 20 million USD of investment financing through SMEs loans granted for projects from Ethiopia showcased on the Invest-in-ACP platform. The funded investment projects have resulted into 675 new temporary jobs and 112 permanent jobs.

Project Information	
LDCs Coverage	ACP countries with national-level components in African LDCs Ethiopia, Zambia and Senegal
Duration period	5 years
Budget	\$ 2,000,000
Partners	Ethiopia Investment Commission (EIC) Ethiopia Food, Beverage & Pharmaceutical Industry Development Institute (FBPIDI) Agence pour la Promotion des Investissements et des Grands Travaux, Senegal, Zambia Development Agency
Contact information	Stefan Kratzsch, Team Lead, Sustainability Standards & Responsible Business Unit s.kratzsch@unido.org

Empowering Comoros: A Path to Sustainable Economic Growth and Trade



Challenge

The economy of the Union of Comoros is not very diversified and is among the most dependent on food imports in the world. Because of its insularity and poor air and sea connections, it is a relatively isolated territory with a high cost of living due to high transport and trade costs, where the socio-economic situation is evolving very slowly, and where its vulnerability to climate change and major natural risks (cyclones, earthquakes, floods and volcanic eruptions) keeps growing.

Solution

In this context, it is essential for Comoros to strengthen its local production capacity, and more particularly food processing capacity, with a view to reducing food imports on the one hand, and increasing export opportunities for products with higher added value on the other, which will contribute to the creation of decent jobs for women and men in the country. This is even more relevant with the ratification of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) and the expected adherence to the WTO. UNIDO is currently supporting the Ministry of Economy to strengthen local MSMEs processing and management capacities

Project Information	
LDCs Coverage	Comoros
Duration period	4 years
Budget	EUR 3,400,000
Donor	European Union
Partners	Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), International Trade Centre (ITC)
Contact information	Ebe Muschialli, Industrial Development Expert, SME Development and Job Creation Unit E.MUSCHIALLI@unido.org

to ensure that quality of local products is enhanced and that local producers can actively participate in the national, regional and continental markets.

Impact

The competitiveness and performance of 46 local SMEs have been strengthened through targeted capacity- building programs focusing on key strategic areas: commercial and business strategy; finance and accounting; quality and food security; marketing and branding. Meanwhile, 16 Entrepreneurship Support Organizations (ESO) have been trained and coached by UNIDO experts and established a local network in order to ensure the sustainability of the project's activities and guarantee ongoing support even after the end of the project.



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