UNIDO AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Accelerating inclusive and sustainable industrial development and economic transformation

Best practice cases of UNIDO’s public-private partnerships
In 2023, amid global challenges, only 15% of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were on track for 2030. Recognizing the important catalytic role that the private sector plays in bringing about transformative change and finding innovative solutions to development challenges, UNIDO has a long history of partnering with the private sector.

A growing number of industry leaders are recognizing that aligning business strategies, operations and supply chains with sustainable development outcomes is not only a social responsibility, but also increasingly a business imperative. Adopting more socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable business operations helps to mitigate risk, develop new markets, and cultivate sustainable relationships with suppliers, customers, and investors.

UNIDO provides support to its 172 Member States through technical cooperation; action-oriented research and policy-advisory services; normative standards-related activities; and partnerships for knowledge and technology transfer. UNIDO concentrates on three strategic priorities: ending hunger by helping businesses from farm to fork; stopping climate breakdown by using renewable energy and energy
efficiency to reduce industrial greenhouse gas emissions; and supporting sustainable supply chains so that developing country producers get a fair deal and scarce resources are preserved, for which public-private partnerships are essential.

By partnering with the business sector, UNIDO ensures that its technical, convening, and normative functions respond to the current needs of sustainable industries. By leveraging the expertise, resources, and innovative capacities of each other, UNIDO and the private sector can foster shared prosperity, economic competitiveness, and environmentally sustainable industry through the provision of innovative solutions.

UNIDO partnerships address impediments hindering industrial challenges in producer countries, through its field presence in 49 regional hubs and offices in 156 countries and collaborating with 99 UN country teams. UNIDO promotes innovative technology transfer through capacity building and knowledge exchange, acts as an impartial convener and neutral broker for networking and dialogue among industry, governments, the development community, and the private sector. UNIDO aims to achieve development impact by scaling up and replicating successful initiatives through investments and market transformation.
More than 60% of businesses are off track to meet their sustainability goals. In 2023, amid global challenges, only 15% of SDGs were on track for 2030.

SDGs in developing countries face an investment gap of nearly USD 4.2 trillion per year.

Sustainable and inclusive business models could unlock economic opportunities worth at least US$12 trillion a year by 2030 and generate up to 380 million jobs, mostly in developing countries.
In collaboration with the German Senate of Economy, The German SDG Award & UNIDO Innovation Awards were presented on 25 November 2023 in Munich, Germany. The awards recognized outstanding projects and initiatives that are exemplary in their commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in three categories: private company, youth and education, and, cities, municipalities & districts. Our partners Festo Didactic SE and illycaffè received the UNIDO Innovation Award in the company category.
UNIDO’s Public Private Development Partnerships (PPDPs)

PPDPs are one of UNIDO’s flagship approaches to public-private partnerships. A PPDP is a way of delivering and funding public services with wider development impact. The investment, risks, responsibilities, and rewards are shared between the public sector, the private sector, and a development partner. PPDPs enable the harnessing of the expertise, know-how and resources of the private sector to tackle important global industrial development issues.
UNIDO has diverse ways of working with the private sector in its strategic areas. All forms of partnership involve concrete opportunities for action to achieve corporate sustainability objectives, while promoting sustainable industrial development and inclusive economic transformation and delivering on the SDGs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MODALITY: Description and examples</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Long-term alliances align with our strategic goals, encompassing joint ventures, resource sharing, and collaborative initiatives that drive impact efficiently. These partnerships are core to our strategy and operations. This may include a combination of different engagement modalities. One of these modalities is the partner expert programme, where qualified experts, sponsored by business sector partners, gain experience at UNIDO through projects and assignments. Their roles and responsibilities can be co-designed and agreed with the sponsors.</td>
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| **MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS** |
| These initiatives prioritize innovation and multi-stakeholder engagement and contribute across UNIDO’s priority areas and may include several engagement modalities. Multi-stakeholder partnerships include but are not limited to programmes, alliances, and networks. |

| **TECHNICAL COOPERATION**         |
| UNIDO’s technical cooperation encompasses the delivery of projects and programmes in a wide range of areas with a specific duration, geographical location, and funding for a common goal. Private sector partners can engage as a service provider, or knowledge, implementation, or funding partner. |

Learn more here: [Technical Cooperation | UNIDO](#)

| **KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND EXCHANGE** |
| Trainings, events, and platforms: |
| This modality includes opportunities to discuss, access and share knowledge and expertise, and generate innovative solutions. UNIDO events offer various levels and scopes of sponsorship opportunities for private sector entities. By sponsoring a specific UNIDO event or forming longer-term sponsorship cooperation over a thematic area with UNIDO, private sector entities can highlight their products, technologies, and commitment for the Agenda 2030, and benefit from face-to-face contacts with high-level policymakers, academics, and private sector leaders from developing countries and countries from emerging economies. |

Data and policy dissemination: |
UNIDO and the private sector engage in joint publications to disseminate knowledge on a particular topic of common interest and share best practices. |
UNIDO-illycaffè

UNIDO priority area
Cross-cutting

Geographical scope
Ethiopia
Mozambique

Duration
2015-ongoing
CONTEXT

UNIDO’s partnership with illycaffè and Ernesto Illy Foundation was formalized in 2015 within the coffee cluster pavilion at the universal Expo of Milan 2015. To date the partnership has created shared value for all involved stakeholders and has brought to life technical assistance and impact investment projects, all financed by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation.

These initiatives have been shaped to address challenges along the coffee value chain, from production and processing to domestic trading and exporting.

APPROACH

Based on the Public Private Partnership model, the partners utilize their respective resources to pursue both sustainable development and business objectives alike.

BENEFITS OF PARTNERING

UNIDO has extensive experience designing and implementing technical programmes in the field of agro-industrial development, in line with priorities of the local Government; at the same time, illycaffè brings its business knowledge and international market experience.

The implementation of the partnership approach in coffee value chain development evidenced UNIDO’s unique role: the organization establishes strategic partnerships with beneficiaries, donors, and private partners for conceptualizing quality projects, improving impact, optimizing resources as well as mobilizing blended funds.

RESULTS

☑ Clusters of smallholder farmers and cooperatives, benefitting from training programmes on sustainable farming practices, with adoption of regenerative practices for climate resilience.

☑ Shaping the Coffee Training Center, a center of excellence taking steps from the Università del Caffè in Trieste, illycaffè headquarter. The center, the first of its kind in Ethiopia, is aimed at improving the Ethiopian coffee value chain by upgrading the training experience in Ethiopia for all the coffee professionals.

☑ Fully funded scholarship for students from Ethiopia and Mozambique to pursue the Master in Coffee Economics and Science, increasing opportunities for value addition and integrating suppliers into the Global Coffee Value Chains.

☑ Establishment of the first “Ethiopian Coffee Fund” facilitating local impact investments.

☑ Technical advisory and the whole Ibo Coffee Research and Development related activities in Mozambique.
UNIDO-FESTO DIDACTIC

Strategic partnerships with a partner expert

UNIDO priority area
Cross-cutting

Geographical scope
Global

Duration
2019 - ongoing
The renewed Joint Declaration, signed in November 2022, reflects the long-standing partnership between the two organizations and their shared commitment to developing and implementing innovative solutions for technical education and skills development programmes within the industrial skills development agenda.

**CONTEXT**

Festo Didactic, a provider of technical education, and member of the Festo Group, a global player in automation technology, has been partnering with UNIDO in a wide range of projects for workforce and skills development advocating sustainable industry and SME development.

**APPROACH**

The collaboration spans from industrial manufacturing to process automation, water resources management and Environmental Discovery Systems.

The cooperation modalities include knowledge and technology transfer, technical cooperation projects, trainings, events, publications, and a partner expert.

The partnership between UNIDO and Festo Didactic has been reinforced through the sponsorship of a partner expert based in Cote d’Ivoire. This expert has joined the Skills Development and Fair Production Unit at UNIDO as a Vocational Training Expert for a duration of one year. Find out more here:

![QR Code](https://example.com/qrcode)

**BENEFITS OF PARTNERING**

UNIDO is the implementing partner and is acting as the delivery agent for the LKDF.

Overall, approaches like the LKDF offer private partners the opportunity to improve their competitiveness and develop effective and responsible practices for doing business in developing and transitional economies.

The development of local capacity and resources in developing economies present challenges that are often not within the expertise of individual companies.

**RESULTS**

- Rehabilitation of Education Centres in Syria and Iraq.
- Establishment of education programmes in mechatronics at the universities of Suleimania in Iraq and Homs in Syria.
- Co-founding the LKDF.
- The H2O Maghreb project in Morocco leverages innovation and technology, including virtual reality tools, to create an innovative training hub. This initiative aims to instill sustainable water management practices among the next generation of Moroccan water professionals. This project significantly increased female participation in the sector, with 76% of the students being women. Moreover, it played a pivotal role in job creation, as 75% of the graduates from the initial intake secured employment within six months of graduation.

**PARTNERS**

![Festo Logo](https://example.com/festo-logo)

![USAID Logo](https://example.com/usaid-logo)
UNIDO – VOLVO

UNIDO priority area
Cross-cutting, focusing on industrial skills development and employment creation

Geographical scope
Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Morocco, and Zambia

Duration
2015 – ongoing, with various projects at different stages of implementation
CONTEXT

UNIDO’s partnership with Volvo, established in 2015, is designed to tackle the global challenge of youth unemployment, which is often exacerbated by the mismatch between industrial skills supply and demand. This mismatch is a prevalent issue in many developing countries and countries in transition, where the content and quality of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programmes do not align with the private sector’s demands. As a result, graduates struggle to find employment while industries face challenges in finding skilled workers, hindering economic development.

APPROACH

Through Public-Private Development Partnership (PPDP) projects, UNIDO collaborates with Volvo to align TVET programmes with industry needs, thereby enhancing employability and economic development. Through PPDPs, UNIDO demonstrates its commitment to fostering partnerships that leverage the strengths and resources of the public and private sectors along with development partners to address pressing challenges in industrial skills development.

BENEFITS OF PARTNERING

The partnership has demonstrated significant impacts in increasing youth access to skilled job opportunities and challenging gender stereotypes in traditionally male-dominated sectors. By fostering collaboration between the private sector and TVET institutions, the partnership has also been instrumental in building trust and ensuring that training programmes are closely aligned with industry requirements.

RESULTS

The partnership has achieved significant results in many countries:

☑️ In Ethiopia the MISALE project trained 1,105 people, with a 98% employability rate.

☑️ Also in Ethiopia the HDECOVA project trained 787 beneficiaries, with a 96% employability rate.

☑️ In Zambia the ZAMITA phase I and II projects achieved a 45% employability rate among its 1,116 beneficiaries.

☑️ In Morocco, the AGEVEC project trained 240 individuals, with 70% finding employment within six months of completing their training.

☑️ Also in Morocco, the ACCES project reported that 94% of its 70 trainees completed their training successfully, with 89% securing jobs within six months.

PARTNERS

Volvo Group, Volvo Trucks, Services Machinery Trucks (SMT) along with other local and international stakeholders in the public and private sectors.

Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

WEBSITES

LKDF PPDP projects. Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Morocco and Zambia
UNIDO-VOLVO-EPIROC

**UNIDO priority area**
Cross-cutting

**Geographical scope**
Democratic Republic of Congo

**Duration**
2022-2027
CONTEXT

UNIDO, the Government of Sweden, Volvo Group and Epiroc are joining forces to stimulate the technical and vocational education and training (TVET) reform in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The partnership also includes the DRC’s Ministry of Primary, Secondary, and Technical Education, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, and the Ministry of Industry.

The public-private development partnership (PPDP) aims to promote youth’s access to qualified employment in the heavy-duty equipment sector. It also facilitates systemic change in private sector engagement, in TVET governance and delivery in the DRC.

APPROACH

The project aims to contribute to the government’s efforts to reform the TVET sector by encouraging the replication of project innovations in other schools, trades, and regions.

The project supports the DRC’s priorities outlined in its National Strategic Plan for Development and its Sector Strategy for Education and Training. It will contribute to the Swedish International Development Agency’s strategy for the DRC and to UNIDO’s Country Program.

The project will be implemented over five years with an estimated budget of USD10,846,809. This includes a grant by the Swedish government of USD6,8 million and in-kind contributions by other partners (equipment and support).

BENEFITS OF PARTNERING

The companies involved will have the opportunity to employ young women and reap the benefits of a more diverse and inclusive workforce.

EXPECTED RESULTS

Accordingly, the project will support two vocational training centres with upgraded facilities, training equipment and tools, and modernized curricula.

- Trainer capacities will be built to enable the delivery of quality training aligned to employer needs for heavy-duty equipment maintenance mechanics.
- The partner training centres will also offer career services to help graduates find employment.
- The project will contribute to the government’s efforts to reform the TVET sector by encouraging the replication of project innovations in other schools, trades, and regions.

PARTNERS

V O L V O  Epiroc  Sida
PCP is a multi-stakeholder partnership led by the respective host government and aligned with the national development agenda and focused on sectors with high growth potential. The programme supports a country in achieving its industrial development goals.

Through the PCP, UNIDO provides advisory services to the government on industry-related issues and facilitates overall PCP coordination. UNIDO identifies and reaches out to essential partners throughout programming and implementation, with a focus on building synergies and leveraging large-scale public and private finance.

Additionally, a multidisciplinary UNIDO team provides technical assistance for the execution of the programme. This includes, among other interventions, skills training programmes, industrial energy efficiency projects, and conducting feasibility studies for the establishment of major industrial projects, such as industrial zones.

The Clean Energy Ministerial’s Industrial Deep Decarbonization Initiative (IDDI) is a global coalition of public and private organizations who are working to stimulate demand for low carbon industrial materials. In collaboration with national governments, IDDI works to standardize carbon assessments, establish ambitious public and private sector procurement targets, incentivize investment into low-carbon product development and design industry guidelines.

Coordinated by UNIDO, the IDDI is co-led by the governments of the United Kingdom and India. Additional members include Canada, Germany, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States. The initiative brings together a strong coalition of related initiatives and organizations including the Mission Possible Platform, the Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT) and the World Economic Forum, to tackle carbon intensive construction materials such as steel, cement, and concrete.
Global Programme for Hydrogen in Industry

In 2021, with the support of the governments of Austria, China, Germany, and Italy, UNIDO launched the Global Programme for Hydrogen in Industry. This Programme aims to assist developing countries in overcoming identified barriers and encourage a just hydrogen transition that puts social and environmental aspects in focus. Promoting tangible projects (including the development of Green Hydrogen Clusters) to accelerate the local uptake of green hydrogen and its application in hard-to-abate industries of developing countries and transition economies is a key element of the Programme. The focus areas of the UNIDO intervention are:

- Policies
- Standards
- Financial Instruments
- Skills and Ability
- Innovation
- Coordination

Global Alliance on AI for Industry & Manufacturing (AIM Global)

UNIDO launched the AIM Global as a strategic move to broaden the spectrum of international partnerships maximizing their impact on inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID). The Alliance prioritizes enhancing efficiency, relevance, and effectiveness by implementing digital transformation and AI projects within the Organization's Member States with the goal to promote “progress by innovation” globally by harnessing the potential of frontier technologies. AIM Global is driven by the objective of fostering collaboration among stakeholders from government, industry, the private sector, academia, and civil society, for the development and deployment of AI technologies. Its focus lies in enhancing industrial competitiveness, advancing sustainable development, and ensuring fair access to the benefits of AI for all.
It is the first global pre-competitive platform aiming at accelerating the circular transition in the coffee supply chain, promoting principles, supporting innovation, and developing good practices related to circular economy in the global coffee industry.

The Center is promoted and supported by a global network of partners: Giuseppe e Pericle Lavazza Foundation, Politecnico di Torino, University of Gastronomic Sciences (Pollenzo, Italy), International Coffee Organization (ICO), International Trade Centre (ITC) and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

The Center invites all players in the coffee supply chain. It offers local growers access to a global knowledge network for circular economy pilot projects. Coffee roasters can collaborate through a scientific network, while associations, institutions, and partners support initiatives for industry-wide circular economy acceleration. Research centers and academia contribute innovative solutions and awareness.

UNIDO’s ITPOs contribute to the reduction of development imbalances by brokering investment and technology agreements between developed and developing countries. Ten ITPOs have been established, together constituting the ITP Network. Potential investors and technology suppliers can contact the individual ITPOs.
Learning and Knowledge Development Facility (LKDF)

The LKDF is a platform that promotes industrial skills development among young people in developing economies. Working with the private sector through Public Private Development Partnerships (PPDP), the LKDF supports the establishment and upgrading of local industrial training academies to help meet the labor market's increasing demand for skilled employees, contributing to inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

UNIDO manages the facility, on behalf of the LKDF partners.

Learning and Knowledge Development Facility (LKDF) Forum

The LKDF Forum stands as the flagship event of the LKDF. It convenes annually under a different theme and serves as a vital platform for fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange among various stakeholders and to discuss some of the most significant developments within the skills development field, in alignment with UNIDO’s mission and global development goals. The common theme of every forum relates to its angel on skills, which can also evolve onto topics addressing emerging challenges such as sustainable supply chains, climate change mitigation, gender equality, or digital transformation, reflecting the dynamic nature of global development efforts.

The LKDF Forum is an occasion for public, private, and development institutions, academia, the civil society, partners, project teams, training specialists, technical and vocational education, and training (TVET) experts, and interested stakeholders to come together, delve into the importance of skills development, and provide recommendations on ways to assess, develop, and monitor curricula in training activities and explore collaborative solutions through Public Private Development Partnerships (PPDP). Ultimately, serving as a platform to discuss, strategize, and collaborate on solutions that empower local communities and economies worldwide.
UNIDO-RITTER SPORT

UNIDO priority area
Cross-cutting

Geographical scope
Nicaragua

Duration
2018-2023
CONTEXT

The Project “Improving the productive and organizational capacities of cocoa producers and producers in the Mining Triangle,” PROCACAO Phase II, is the extension of an initiative focused on supporting producers, companies, and organizations of cocoa producers in the North Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region (RACCN), to increase productivity and competitiveness, while protecting the environment.

APPROACH

The overall objective of the project was to contribute to the improvement of the income of at least 1,250 families of cocoa-producers, through the implementation of good agricultural practices, which allow an increase in quality for export markets, organizational and business strengthening and the generation of employment.

BENEFITS OF PARTNERING

UNIDO, under its mandate to promote and accelerate the inclusive and sustainable industrial development of developing countries and economies in transition, in close strategic coordination with the Swiss Development Cooperation, was responsible for the execution of this project.

Ritter Sport provided in-kind contribution of USD 50,000, which benefited each cooperative.

RESULTS

☑ The project promoted the participation of cooperatives and productive actors of the RACCN, who for various economic and social reasons, are considered in a context of vulnerability, limiting their participation in sectoral economic activities.

☑ 8 cooperatives strengthened their organizational, management, technical and marketing capabilities.

☑ Increased production, productivity, and quality of cocoa in Agro Forestal Systems (SAF), with mitigation measures and adaptation to climate change.
The IVECF is a solutions platform to advance climate action and sustainable energy for development. It facilitates multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder and interdisciplinary dialogue to advance sustainable energy development while promoting inclusiveness and the empowerment of women.

Initiated in 2008, the Forum is co-organized by UNIDO, the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA).

**Bridge for Cities**

*Bridge for Cities* is an annual forum that aims to promote the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in cities. The event aims to encourage municipal officials and development stakeholders to scale up their engagement in inclusive and sustainable urban and industrial development initiatives.

**SDG9 Accelerator**

The *SDG 9 Accelerator* is a digital and online network that offers tools to accelerate progress towards SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure - whilst also triggering positive multiplier effects on other SDGs. It provides technical services in priority sectors and areas identified and demanded by the countries involved.

It is a unique knowledge-sharing tool where countries and stakeholders can access up-to-date information on factors that accelerate the pace of SDG 9 achievement. It is based on South-South and triangular cooperation between countries in the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) region. The SDG 9 Accelerator offers a plethora of tools on key topics related to SDG 9, inviting you to take part in an exclusive community of innovators. The tools are offered by UNIDO and diverse partners.
MIPF is a global platform that creates a space for Member States to engage in mutual learning, information exchange and knowledge sharing on cross-cutting thematic issues, such as greening the economy, digitalization and technology transfer, and the achievement of the SDGs. It aims to foster stronger multilateral collaboration on industrial development and policy issues at the regional and global levels between policymakers and practitioners, development researchers and business professionals.

UNIDO and the private sector engage in joint publications to disseminate knowledge on a particular topic of common interest and share best practices. One example is the Green hydrogen cluster guidelines, which were developed in collaboration with diverse stakeholders such as academia, industry associations and the private sector, to help governments and industries accelerate industrial decarbonization by replacing fossil fuels in hard-to-abate sectors, in cooperation with industry stakeholders, including the private sector.

The World Without Hunger Conference is a three-day long event consisting of technical sessions on challenges and solutions to combat hunger and food security issues, an investment forum for mobilizing investments for sustainable food security initiatives and a high-level political forum for global action against hunger. Co-organized by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the African Union, and the Government of Ethiopia, the conference gathers Heads of State and Government, UN and other development partners, development finance institutions, (impact) investors and the business sector to engage through high-level policy deliberations, technical sessions, and investment matchmaking B2G and B2B sessions. It also brings in prominent members of academia, lead industry representatives, investment promotion agencies (IPAs) and private sector associations to share their experiences.
UNIDO collaborates with international and local multinationals, small and medium-sized enterprises, and industry associations in industrializing and industrialized countries across a range of sectors and value chains. Find out who do we partner with here:
The Public Private Partnerships Division at UNIDO is your main point of contact for strategic partnerships with the private sector and acts as a broker between UNIDO and private sector partners. UNIDO seeks partners who share its core values and internationally recognized principles.

Contact us to explore potential synergistic opportunities with UNIDO and to learn more about what the next steps look like. Get a glimpse of partnership opportunities and the impact we are creating with the private sector here:

[QR Code]

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