



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



GLOBAL CLEANTECH INNOVATION PROGRAMME (GCIP)

Advancing cleantech innovation and entrepreneurship in emerging markets and developing economies to address climate challenges and foster sustainable development

CONTEXT

Climate change presents an existential threat to humanity. Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions continue to increase, posing the risk that temperature rise will surpass 1.5°C as early as in 2030, unless decisive action is taken, including the rapid development, deployment and adoption of innovative low-carbon solutions.

Innovation and entrepreneurship play a key role by contributing to mitigating climate change, adapting to its effects but also to economic growth and sustainable development.

Start-ups and SMEs are the engines in this process, especially in cleantech. Cleantech enterprises can support the transition toward sustainable low-carbon and resilient economies while creating new green jobs and empowering women and youth.

According to the International Energy Agency (IEA)'s net-zero scenario, the size of the global cleantech market will surpasses the value of the oil market, rising from \$122 billion to \$870 billion by 2030.

Despite this potential, they often find it difficult to commercialize their solutions. Start-ups and SMEs encounter serious barriers to business and technology development, referred to as "valleys of death", that they have to cross to ensure traction, growth and scale-up, nationally and globally.

WORKING TOWARDS



PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

The [Global Cleantech Innovation Programme \(GCIP\)](#) of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), funded through the [Global Environment Facility \(GEF\)](#) and the [Green Climate Fund \(GCF\)](#), induces transformative change and increases the chances for start-ups and SMEs to bridge these "valleys of death".

GCIP leverages the power of innovation and entrepreneurship to find solutions to the most pressing climate and environmental problems while also promoting sustainable development.

INNOVATIVE APPROACH

GCIP accelerates cleantech start-ups and SMEs from emerging markets and developing economies into investment-ready and scalable solutions through progressive business acceleration services at national and global levels.

At the same time, GCIP trains a community of cleantech innovation and entrepreneurship experts to support start-ups SMEs along their entrepreneurial journey.

GCIP facilitates investment in cleantech by building long-term partnerships with investors and private sector and connecting them with market-ready enterprises to further advance their operations, deployment and reach.

BENEFITS FOR PARTNER COUNTRIES



ENABLING
ECOSYSTEM
CONNECTIVITY &
COORDINATION



CREATING
EQUAL
OPPORTUNITIES
IN CLEANTECH

PROMOTING
SOUTH-SOUTH
COOPERATION

BENEFITS FOR INVESTORS



ACCESS TO
CUTTING-EDGE
TECHNOLOGIES



VERIFIED
IMPACT OF
SOLUTIONS



CONTACT
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In parallel to working directly with cleantech start-ups and SMEs, GCIP strengthens national innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystems, thus enabling countries to leapfrog to cleaner and more resilient economies.

GCIP provides partner countries with gender-sensitive and country-specific capacity-building tools, policy recommendations and regulatory frameworks to build institutional capacities of government agencies focused on business development and innovation.

GCIP's ecosystem approach focuses on systems change, combining policy support and capacity building with the direct acceleration support to cleantech enterprises, uniquely placing the GCIP as the only comprehensive cleantech ecosystem-building initiative.

Additionally, GCIP contributes to the operationalization of national policy and international commitments in the field of climate, innovation and entrepreneurship, including the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

GCIP facilitates knowledge creation and exchange to promote synergies within and across ecosystems. The Programme works closely with national industry associations and shares accumulated expertise to help them expand their membership, better communicate industry needs to policymakers, advocate for greater women's engagement and strengthen their positions.

To ensure its programmatic coherence, GCIP serves as a coordination platform to aggregate and disseminate knowledge products that support the thinking and decision-making processes around cleantech solutions at national and global levels. A key component of GCIP is its web platform that facilitates global coordination and building of the GCIP community. The web platform is also a knowledge depository to raise awareness of cleantech potential and latest developments.

Building on decades of expertise in supporting the private sector, UNIDO and the GEF designed GCIP to systematically foster cleantech innovation and entrepreneurship in emerging markets and developing economies.

By leveraging UNIDO's thought leadership in sustainable industrial development and its network of partners, GCIP provides tailored support to each partner country, which allows for smarter resources allocation and the long-term sustainability of interventions.

GENDER MAINSTREAMING

The guiding principle of GCIP is to ensure equal opportunities for women to participate in and benefit from cleantech innovation and entrepreneurship.

GCIP empowers women entrepreneurs to develop businesses and products that support a greener future. GCIP promotes greater involvement of women entrepreneurs in its accelerator programmes not only as direct acceleration beneficiaries but also as mentors, coaches and judges.

GCIP involves women in the mentoring, training and judging to create more role models and design special mentoring programmes targeted at women entrepreneurs.

GCIP capacity-building services for the partner countries focus very strongly on supporting gender-responsive policies. GCIP policy frameworks, guidelines and tools underline the importance of gender mainstreaming to make cleantech innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystems more inclusive.

Since 2013, GCIP has already demonstrated higher levels of women's participation than other accelerator programmes, with approximately 25% alumni supported being women-led enterprises. For the period between 2022-2026, GCIP aims to increase this number to at least 35%.

WAY FORWARD

GCIP has well-established expertise and a reputation in cleantech and business development. Combining GCIP accelerators with the ecosystem-strengthening approach, normative role and support for women as well as youth support and intergenerational dialogue, GCIP aims to achieve environmental, social and economic benefits. While other programmes with a similar scope focus on some of these components, GCIP combines them all.

Between 2014-2019, GCIP supported over 1,200 enterprises in 9 countries. In the coming years, GCIP will empower even more innovators in a wider network of up to 25 partner countries. GCIP 2022-2026 interventions can cumulatively mitigate at least 1,719,000 CO₂e directly and 8,595,000 CO₂e indirectly over the next ten years.

GCIP Website
gcip.tech



BENEFITS FOR ENTREPRENEURS



EXPOSURE TO LOCAL AND GLOBAL CUSTOMERS AND INVESTORS, INCLUDING IMPACT AND GENDER LENS INVESTORS



CLEANTECH-SPECIFIC AND GENDER RESPONSIVE BUSINESS ACCELERATION SUPPORT



PEER LEARNING AND NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES



GCIP AT A GLANCE

PROJECT TITLE	Global Cleantech Innovation Programme (GCIP) to accelerate the uptake and investments in innovative cleantech solutions (UNIDO ID: 180258)
GOAL	Catalyze transformational and innovative cleantech solutions for climate action, promoting coordination, synergies, and connectivity of cleantech innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem for start-ups and SMEs in partner countries implementing GCIP
THEMATIC AREAS	Climate change mitigation and adaptation, cleantech innovation and entrepreneurship, SME and start-up support, women empowerment, youth engagement
EXAMPLES OF INNOVATION-RELATED OUTPUTS, INCLUDING REGULATORY AND OTHER FRAMEWORKS	<p>Global cleantech innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem assessment framework for country analysis</p> <p>Global cleantech innovation cluster development framework and Global cleantech capacity building framework</p> <p>Cleantech innovation and entrepreneurship-related policy recommendations and strategies at national and global levels</p> <p>Global Cleantech Innovation Index</p> <p>State-of-the-art GCIP web platform connecting more than ten projects through an interactive network. Platform features entail enhanced stakeholder engagement instruments, foster proactive know-how spreading and support advanced data analysis with tailored IT tools</p> <p>Methodologies, guidelines, tools and training systems for cleantech innovation and entrepreneurship accelerators</p>
CURRENT PARTNERS	Cleantech Group (CTG), Network of Global Innovation (NGIN), REEEP on behalf of the Private Financing Advisory Network (PFAN)
TOTAL PROGRAMME BUDGET GLOBALLY	~ USD 27 million
DURATION	2022 - 2026

GCIP PROGRAMMATIC COMPONENTS

COMPONENT I

ACCELERATION AND INVESTMENT FACILITATION

Bringing transformative cleantech solutions to the market at scale and speed



COMPONENT II

CLEANTECH ECOSYSTEM STRENGTHENING AND CONNECTIVITY

Building, strengthening and connecting cleantech innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystems, leveraging the South-South and Triangular Cooperation



COMPONENT III

PROGRAMME COORDINATION AND COHERENCE

Coherence of the programmatic approach and communication activities across GCIP countries

