

PRIVATE FINANCE FOR THE SDGs

Leveraging, scaling, and aligning private sector investments to help achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

TRANSFORMING PRIVATE FINANCE FOR GLOBAL IMPACT

UNDP's Private Finance for the SDGs is at the forefront of transforming the global financial landscape to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Despite global efforts, progress remains off track, with only 15 percent of SDG targets making sufficient headway, while more than a third have regressed below 2015 levels. The urgency of action has never been greater.

The US\$4.3 trillion annual SDG financing gap is not just about mobilizing more capital — it is about reimagining finance as a powerful driver of global change. UNDP enables this transformation by

leveraging private capital, aligning financial systems with sustainable development, and strengthening policies and institutions to create an enabling environment for SDG-aligned investments.

UNDP is not just addressing the financing shortfall — it is shaping a financial system where capital flows consistently prioritize people and the planet alongside profit. The mission is clear: to foster a world where sustainable investment decisions drive inclusive growth, resilience, and long-term prosperity.

UNDP IS MAKING AN IMPACT



600+
**INVESTMENT
OPPORTUNITY AREAS**

UNDP's SDG Investor Platform identified 600+ investment opportunity areas across 45+ markets, highlighting private sector potential for sustainable development and project pipeline building.



**\$200 MILLION
INVESTMENT POTEN-
TIAL IDENTIFIED**

In Nigeria and Ghana, investment potential of \$200 million identified, with \$15 million already secured in deals — reflecting the tangible outcomes of targeted investment efforts.



**40
POLICY DIALOGUES
ORGANIZED**

UNDP has facilitated policy dialogues and investor connections leveraging SDG Investor Maps and other tools across 40 markets. These dialogues are crucial in shaping an environment conducive to sustainable investments.

SERVICES



Leveraging
Capital for the
SDGs



Aligning
Capital for the
SDGs



Strengthening
Policies and
Institutions

LEVERAGING CAPITAL
FOR THE SDGs



UNDP leverages private capital to close the SDG financing gap by identifying investment-ready opportunities and strengthening financial ecosystems. The SDG Investor Platform provides market intelligence to help investors identify viable SDG-aligned opportunities in sectors such as renewable energy, health care, agriculture, and infrastructure. The SDG Investor Maps highlight priority investment areas, ensuring capital flows where it is most needed.

At the country level, UNDP works with governments, businesses, and financial institutions to build pipelines

of bankable SDG-aligned projects. By strengthening enterprises, improving access to finance, and fostering partnerships with investors and funds, UNDP helps direct private capital toward sustainable, high-impact ventures. Policy dialogues and regulatory support further create conditions for private sector investment in sustainable development.

By leveraging data, expertise, and partnerships, UNDP helps align private finance with the SDGs, unlocking new investment opportunities that benefit both businesses and communities.

Unlocking Investment Potential in Africa: Insights from the UNDP Africa Investment Insights Report

250
Investment
Opportunities

Identified through UNDP's SDG Investor Maps across 11 sectors in 20 African countries.

50+
White Spaces

Highlight enabling environment opportunities that can unlock additional private capital for sustainable development.

44
Industries

Offering attractive financial returns and significant environmental and social benefits.

ALIGNING CAPITAL FOR THE SDGs



UNDP supports businesses and investors in aligning business interests with social and environmental outcomes — ensuring capital contributes to both financial returns and real-world impact. By integrating sustainability into decision-making, organizations can unlock long-term value while helping shape a more inclusive and resilient global economy.

To support this, UNDP provides practical frameworks, including the SDG Impact Standards, the OECD-UNDP Impact Standards for Financing Sustainable Development, and the ISO-UNDP Guidelines for the

SDGs. These tools help organizations align their strategies with the SDGs, incorporate sustainability into investment decisions, and meet evolving reporting requirements. UNDP also offers Impact Measurement and Management (IMM) training, equipping businesses with the skills to assess and manage their sustainability performance.

By embedding sustainability into financial strategies, businesses and investors can drive innovation, scale sustainable solutions, and contribute to a more inclusive and resilient global economy.

150+ Companies & Investors

UNDP is directly collaborating to enhance impact informed business strategies and IMM frameworks.

35,000+ Enrolled

Learners from around the world are mastering IMM for the SDGs through UNDP's Coursera course with Duke University.

70+ Accredited Trainers

UNDP is directly collaborating to enhance impact informed business strategies and IMM frameworks.

STRENGTHENING POLICIES AND INSTITUTIONS

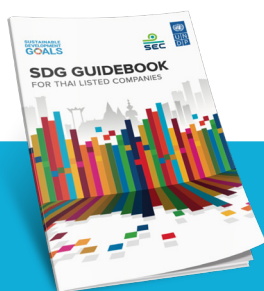


A supportive policy and regulatory environment is essential for attracting private capital to the SDGs. UNDP works with governments and financial institutions to reduce barriers, mitigate investment risks, and create conditions that facilitate sustainable investment.

UNDP supports policy reforms and capacity-building to help institutions implement regulations that encourage private sector engagement in sustainable development. By strengthening financial policies, frameworks, and governance structures, UNDP helps

ensure capital flows align with national development priorities.

Through Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs), UNDP works with countries to align public and private investments with the SDGs, creating a cohesive approach to financing long-term development. By providing technical expertise, risk management strategies, and investment facilitation, UNDP enables governments and institutions to unlock capital for sustainable and inclusive growth.



Case Study: Thailand's SDG Guidebook for Listed Companies

In October 2023, UNDP Thailand, in partnership with the Securities and Exchange Commission of Thailand (SEC), launched the *SDG Guidebook for Thai Listed Companies*. With over 800 companies listed on the Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET), this guidebook is designed to help them incorporate the SDGs into their daily operations and long-term strategies. By offering clear guidelines and practical examples, the guidebook supports businesses in aligning their activities with the SDGs, helping them better understand and tackle the major social, economic, and environmental challenges outlined by these global goals.

One of the key elements of the guidebook is the introduction of the SDG IMM framework. This framework gives companies a structured way to measure, manage, and report on their sustainability impacts, ensuring they meet the SEC's reporting requirements. By using the IMM approach, Thai companies can better identify and focus on their most significant impacts, helping them to manage potential risks and take advantage of new opportunities. This alignment with the SDGs also helps businesses meet the expectations of stakeholders, use resources more efficiently, and foster ongoing innovation.

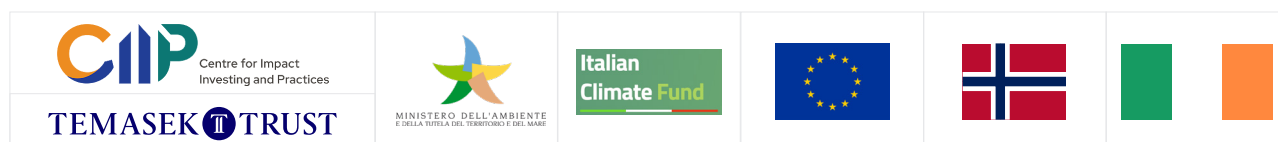
This initiative not only strengthens Thailand's commitment to sustainable development but also sets a new example for other markets. By integrating the SDGs into their core strategies, Thai companies are now in a better position to contribute to both national and global sustainability efforts, showcasing the important role the private sector plays in achieving the 2030 Agenda.

PARTNERSHIP

UNDP partners with a wide range of organizations to drive sustainable private finance solutions that support the SDGs by 2030. Through our extensive network of country offices, we work on the ground to leverage and align private finance with local development needs. By tapping into the expertise

and resources of international finance institutions, business leaders, and private-sector partners, we create impactful change at both the global and local levels. Our collaborations within the UN system further align efforts and maximize impact.

DONOR PARTNERS



To learn more about UNDP's Private Finance for the SDGs, visit sdgprivatefinance.undp.org.
To learn more about the Sustainable Finance Hub, visit sdgfinance.undp.org.

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