

2024 in focus



Reflections, results, and the road ahead

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List of abbreviations

AI	Artificial Intelligence
DPoA	The Doha Programme of Action
GATAM	Giresun Food Research and Test/Analysis Center
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
LLDCs	Landlocked Developing Countries
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
STI	Science, Technology and Innovation
TML	Technology Makers Lab
TNA	Technology Needs Assessment
TÜBİTAK	Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey
TÜBİTAK MAM	TÜBİTAK Marmara Research Center
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programm
UNESCO	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNOHRLLS	Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization

Foreword by Managing Director Deodat Maharaj



2024 represented a challenging year, especially for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Full SDG achievement remained elusive for LDCs, the core clients of the UN Technology Bank.

With five years remaining until 2030, just 17% of SDG targets are on track to be met. Simultaneously, there is a clear recognition that science, technology, and innovation (STI) are vital to help LDCs bridge the massive divide between themselves and the rest of the world.

This was underscored in September 2024, when world leaders adopted the UN's Pact for Future and its associated Global Digital Compact, the first comprehensive international framework for digital cooperation and AI governance. This recognition, along with that of the DOHA Programme of Action, reinforced the United Nations' foundational vision that a UN Technology Bank was needed to support LDCs to fast-track their development.

Serving 44 client countries is a significant mandate for a small organization. In 2024, we focused on consolidating what we do best. We positioned our Technology Needs Assessments to deliver evidence-based pathways for our clients, to help them deliver on their development agenda. We also trialled our knowledge-sharing function to ensure that countries can build their own STI capacity.

As a young organization working in a challenging environment, partnerships are vital. Consequently, we engaged relentlessly with established and non-traditional development partners, especially from the Global South. Given the importance of leveraging low-cost, high-impact solutions that can be scaled up, partnering with knowledge institutions and business is essential. This was a big focus during the year, enabling us to start our transition to also serve as a knowledge broker for our clients. Of course, a key part of our strategy and efforts was further strengthening our relationship with the United Nations family including our Resident Coordinators in the field.

In terms of communications and outreach, we focused on our client countries and on advocacy with development partners. The data demonstrate the success of our efforts including social media outreach. We also revamped our website and published Op-Eds on high priority matters related to the STI agenda through the lens of LDCs. These have been very well received and have helped to further strengthen the organization's substantive credibility in the STI space.

I am deeply grateful for the outstanding support of our Governing Council and my team.

2025 promises to be an exciting year for us with a new Strategic Plan 2025-2027 in place. We will have just one focus: delivering results for our client countries.

Message from the Chair of the Governing Council, Professor Hasan Mandal



I am delighted with the progress made by the United Nations Technology Bank in 2024. It reflected a year of positive change, which augurs well for the institution's future.

The analytical work of the institution, such as the Technology Needs Assessments, continued to generate strong traction on the ground; robust governance arrangements were further strengthened; and a new Managing Director was appointed who has hit the ground running. I was also pleased with the continued dedicated support of the leadership of the United Nations to the UN Technology Bank and our work during this period.

As a relatively new organization, it was good to see the heightened visibility and profile of the institution during the year, particularly in key fora such as the High-Level Week in New York at the time of the UN General Assembly.

Similarly, there has been a step change in the outreach and engagement with development partners.

The institution has made commendable progress in its branding and communications with a revamped website, regular Op-Eds, and the active use of social media channels.

We have used this year to build a strong base for the UN Technology Bank so it can realize its foundational aspirations of leveraging science, technology and innovation to help drive positive change for the 44 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) across the planet. Moreover, the UN Technology Bank has invested considerable time and energy in developing an ambitious and forward-looking Strategic Plan for 2025-2027 with a forensic focus on delivering results for the LDCs via science, technology, and innovation.

I also want to recognize the hard work of the management and staff of the UN Technology Bank. I am also deeply indebted for the active engagement and excellent support of the Governing Council. They have worked hard to provide oversight and strategic direction.

I am confident that we will continue to build on this momentum together and look forward to a 2025 driven by results for the benefit of the LDCs.

Message from Under Secretary-General, UNOHRLS Rabab Fatima



The achievements of the UN Technology Bank in 2024 stand as a testament to its vital role in advancing the development aspirations of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

The Technology Bank is the UN's flagship institution with a dedicated mandate to leverage the power of science, technology, and innovation to unlock the immense potential of LDCs.

A cornerstone of Technology Bank's progress this year has been its commitment to robust governance. With the LDCs actively shaping its direction, the Bank has remained firmly focused on addressing their unique challenges and priorities. Their leadership and contributions have been instrumental in ensuring that the Bank continues to align with their needs and aspirations. I am particularly encouraged by the Bank's steadfast dedication to transparency, accountability, and operational excellence.

The successful implementation of 100 per cent of its audit recommendations reflects its commitment to efficiency and accountability. Equally commendable are its efforts to enhance its visibility, elevate its profile and strengthen its engagement with development partners, including the broader UN System, both at headquarters and in the field. These efforts are critical in building the networks and collaboration necessary to amplify its reach and effectiveness.

Looking to the future, I am pleased with the extensive preparations underway for the UN Technology Bank's Strategic Plan 2025-2027. The consultative approach taken to engage a wide range of stakeholders, and prioritizing the voices of LDCs, demonstrates the Bank's dedication to inclusivity and shared ownership. I am confident that this forward-looking Strategic Plan will further enhance the Bank's ability to deliver tangible and lasting results for LDCs.

As the representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on the Bank's Governing Council, I reaffirm our commitment to supporting the UN Technology Bank and its critical mission. I extend my deepest appreciation to its leadership and staff for their remarkable dedication and efforts over the past year. Let us continue our work together to create a brighter, more prosperous future for the 44 LDCs and their 1.1 billion people.

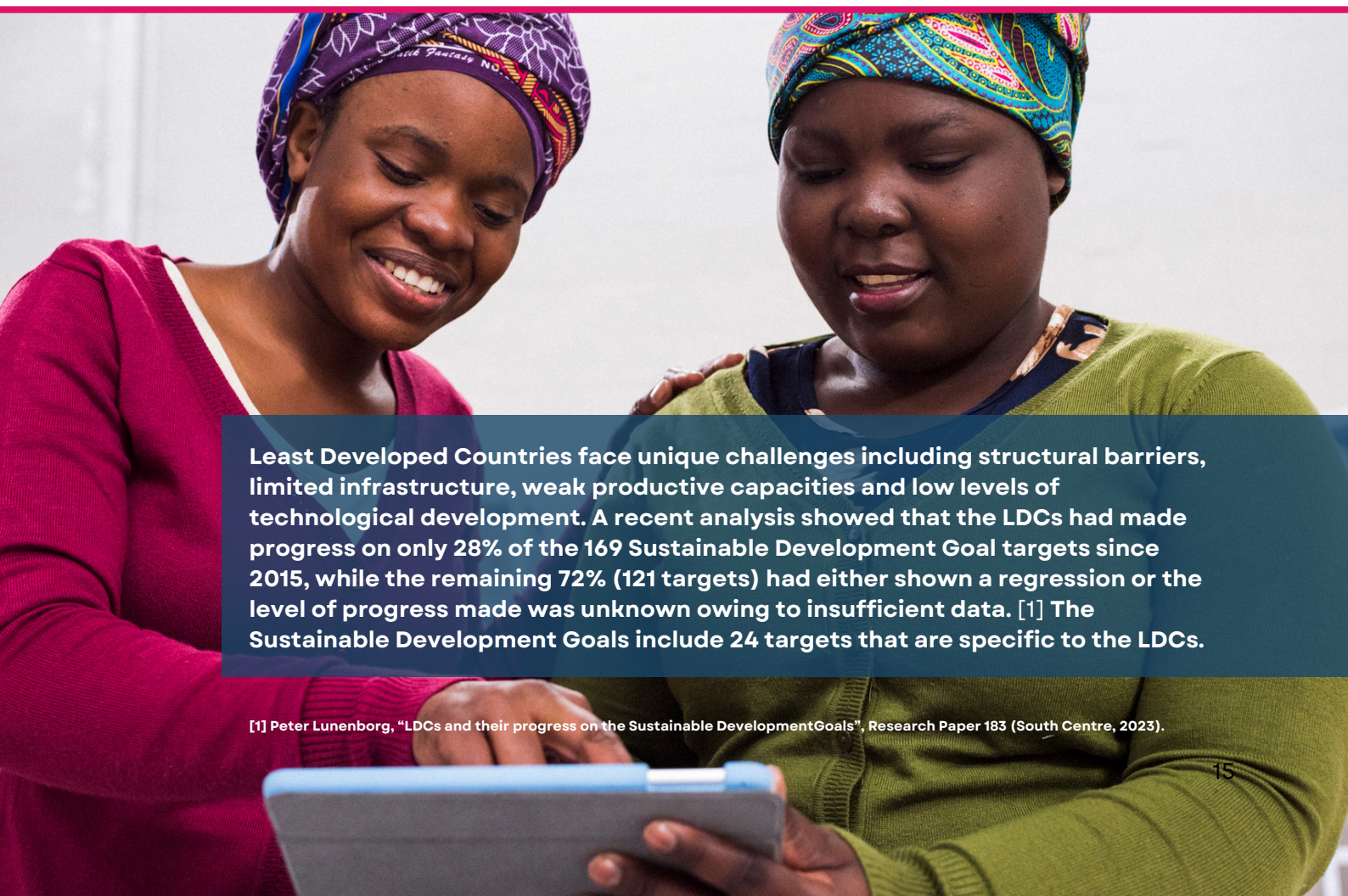
Rabab Fatima is the Under Secretary-General and High Representative for the LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS and Secretary-General's Representative on the Council of United Nations Technology Bank.

Who we are

The United Nations Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries is a relatively new organization and the only UN entity with the exclusive remit to harness science, technology and innovation for sustainable development and transformation in the world's 44 poorest countries.

Establishing the UN Technology Bank in 2018 was the first UN Sustainable Development Goal Target (17.8) to be realized. It recognized the critical role that science, technology and innovation play in fostering sustainable development and the urgent need to close the technological gap between the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and the rest of the world.

Based in Gebze, Türkiye, the UN Technology Bank works alongside national, regional and global partners to deliver programmes that boost technological capacity and promote growth in local economies. By assessing core national sectors, fostering partnerships and guiding countries in adopting tailored, impactful technological solutions, the UN Technology Bank plays a unique role in reshaping economies and livelihoods where it is most needed.



Least Developed Countries face unique challenges including structural barriers, limited infrastructure, weak productive capacities and low levels of technological development. A recent analysis showed that the LDCs had made progress on only 28% of the 169 Sustainable Development Goal targets since 2015, while the remaining 72% (121 targets) had either shown a regression or the level of progress made was unknown owing to insufficient data. [1] The Sustainable Development Goals include 24 targets that are specific to the LDCs.

[1] Peter Lunenborg, "LDCs and their progress on the Sustainable Development Goals", Research Paper 183 (South Centre, 2023).

Vision and mission


Vision

Our vision is a world where science, technology and innovation can quickly close development gaps, ensuring people from the poorest and most vulnerable countries are not left behind.

Mission

Our mission is to support the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in harnessing the transformative power of science, technology and innovation for growth and sustainable development.

LDCs are home to about 1.1 billion people or 14% of the global population, yet they account for just 1% of the global Gross Domestic Product. Despite their challenges, the LDCs have vast human, cultural and natural resources. By leveraging science, technology, innovation, and building capacities in this area, the UN Technology Bank works to unlock the potential for long-term sustainable growth, creating opportunities and livelihoods for people living in the most vulnerable countries in the world.



“With the LDCs actively shaping its direction, the Bank has remained firmly focused on addressing their unique challenges and priorities. Their leadership and contributions have been instrumental in ensuring that the Bank continues to align with their needs and aspirations.”

Rabab Fatima, Under Secretary-General, UNOHRLLS

Our mandate

The UN Technology Bank operates under a core mandate to:

- Empower the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) by building robust Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) capacities to drive progress and development.
- Foster growth by promoting the development and implementation of national and regional STI strategies tailored to address unique challenges and unlock opportunities.
- Strengthen collaborative partnerships by bringing together public sector entities, private sector organizations, and academic institutions to drive innovation and create synergies.
- Enhance global and regional cooperation on STI by connecting researchers, research institutions, and stakeholders within LDCs and across borders.
- Accelerate transformative change by promoting access to cutting-edge technologies, ensuring equitable transfer while upholding intellectual property rights, and empowering LDCs to sustain these advancements effectively.

The Doha Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries 2022-2031 endorsed the UN Technology Bank as “a focal point for the LDCs to strengthen their science, technology and innovation capacity towards building sustainable productive capacities and promoting structural economic transformation”.



Priority areas

Client countries

The UN Technology Bank serves the **44 poorest and most vulnerable countries in the world, also known as the Least Developed Countries (LDCs)**.



Doha Plan of Action

The Doha Programme of Action (DPoA) is a 10-year plan to help the world's LDCs. The Plan was adopted in March 2022 and focuses on areas such as education, poverty, and climate change.

The DPoA includes six key focus areas:

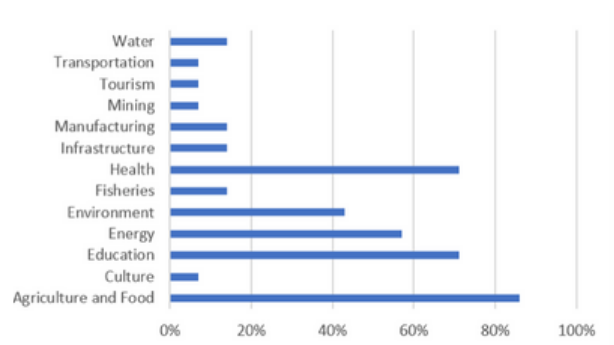
- Investing in people in least developed countries: eradicating poverty and building capacity to leave no one behind;
- Leveraging the power of science, technology, and innovation to fight against multidimensional vulnerabilities and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;
- Supporting structural transformation as a driver of prosperity;
- Enhancing international trade of least developed countries and regional integration;
- Addressing climate change, environmental degradation, recovering from COVID-19 pandemic and building resilience against future shocks for risk-informed sustainable development; and
- Mobilizing international solidarity, reinvigorated global partnerships and innovative tools and instruments: a march towards sustainable graduation.

Technology Needs Assessments

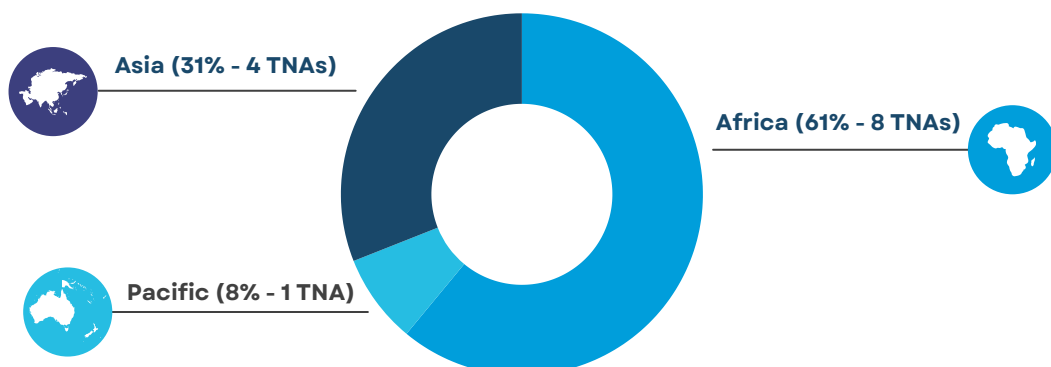
Technology Needs Assessments (TNAs) identify core development challenges and recommend appropriate tech solutions that can make a meaningful impact. In the Least Developed Countries, these assessments are critical for fast-tracking urgent development using science, technology and innovation.

In the long term, TNAs assist countries to develop the technological and innovative capabilities to achieve growth, promote structural transformation and reach the Sustainable Development Goals. To date, the UN Technology Bank has conducted 13 technology needs assessments, which have identified core sectors for intervention.

Priority sectors identified by TNAs



TNAs have been completed in Bangladesh (in partnership with the Commonwealth Secretariat), Bhutan, Cambodia, Djibouti, Guinea, Kiribati, Lesotho, Mozambique, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, the Gambia, Timor-Leste and Uganda. In 2024, three more assessments were initiated, in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malawi and the Republic of Tanzania (in partnership with the International Seabed Authority).



TNAs initiated in 2024

In 2024, the UN Technology Bank initiated TNAs in Lao PDR, Malawi and Tanzania. Lao People's Democratic Republic is a pilot case aimed at providing a better understanding of the country's challenges and the priority areas where technological solutions are needed to enable the country to achieve sustainable graduation from the LDC category.

Tanzania's TNA is being conducted with the International Seabed Authority and Tanzania's Deep-Sea Fishing Authority. It is the first time the UN Technology Bank has focused on the blue economy, a massive driver for coastal countries and Small Island Developing States. All three assessments are due to be completed in 2025.

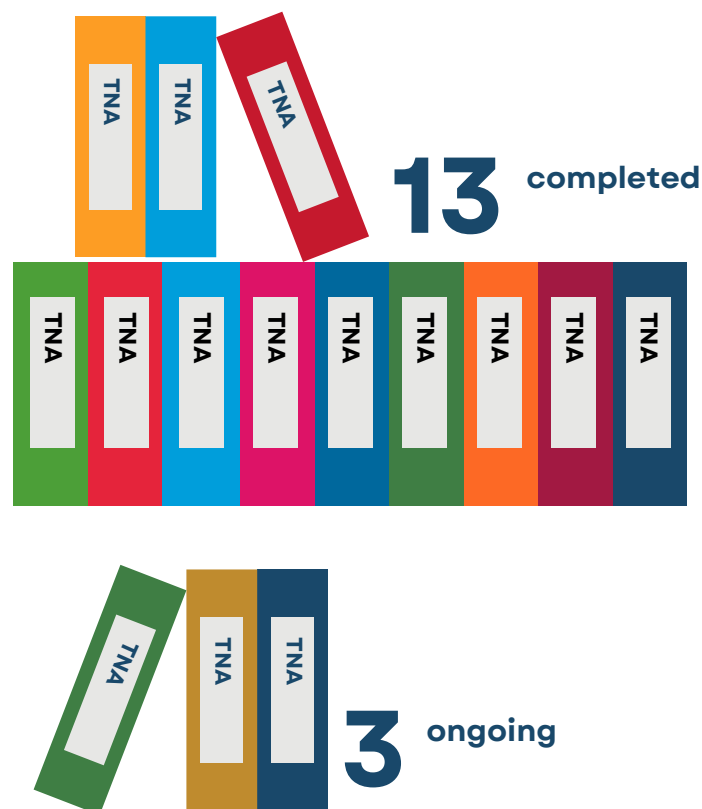
TNAs scheduled for 2025

Preparatory work for TNAs to be conducted in 2025 in Burkina Faso, Nepal and Zambia is ongoing.

Technology transfer

Developing technology from the start is out of reach for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) with their already limited capacities. The technology transfer approach is the easiest way to deliver low-cost, high-impact, replicable and scalable results.

Technology transfers enable countries to access the technologies and know-how they need through partnerships facilitated by the UN Technology Bank, including with the private sector.



Access to medical technology

At the end of 2023, the UN Technology Bank partnered with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and Medtronic in a joint initiative to conduct an exploratory assessment of structural barriers and enablers to medical technology access and innovation in LDCs. The study, 'Medtech Access and Innovation: An Actionable Ecosystem Assessment in Rwanda and Bangladesh' will include recommendations for promoting innovation, development, and access to medical technologies. This pioneering initiative started in February 2024 and is expected to conclude by Q1 2025. The technical teams at WIPO and the UN Technology Bank will then explore opportunities to address some of the identified gaps.

3,500 Bhutanese children treated for hearing loss



More than 80,000 children have been screened for hearing loss, resulting in over 9,000 referrals and nearly 3,500 receiving treatment for a range of hearing difficulties.

It follows a unique partnership between the Kingdom of Bhutan, the UN Technology Bank, Medtronic LABS, MED-EL and Hear the World Foundation.

The project 'Hear, Listen, Speak' was initiated by the UN Technology Bank in 2021 to increase accessibility to hearing care for Bhutan's children.

Since then, 250 technicians, school health coordinators and audiologists have received training due to the programme.

Around 2% of children suffer from hearing disorders in the country, although the actual figure is understood to be higher.



Why it matters

Hearing is a critical marker of child development, impacting speech and language, communication, learning, and core social skills. It also often goes undetected. As a result, children with untreated hearing loss risk important developmental delays with lifelong implications, leading to a poorer quality of life. According to the World Health Organization, nearly 80% of people with hearing loss live in low- and middle-income countries.

About the project

The Hear, Listen, Speak project uses a public-private partnership funding model, which can help overcome resource constraints and speed up the delivery of public services. In Bhutan, a relatively small proportion of people could access the full range of hearing care before the project's onset. The UN Technology Bank helped broker the collaboration between the government and Medtronic LABS, a leading health systems innovator.

In addition to services and professional knowledge transfer, the project has delivered technical equipment, including 600 hearing aids and 50 screening devices


nationwide. The UN Technology Bank has worked closely with local UN agencies, including UNICEF, to protect the rights of every child and ensure the project is aligned with the country's development needs.

Bhutan's success story

Bhutan, a small landlocked Kingdom bordered by India and China, has prioritised poverty reduction over the past few decades and is considered by the World Bank to be a development success story. As a result of improved human development indicators, Bhutan graduated from the least developed group of nations in December 2023.

“We are grateful to everyone who is helping our children hear better. Had it not been for this support, my child would have remained unable to communicate.”

Karma Dema, Parent, Bhutan

A photograph of a young girl and her mother sitting on a patterned rug in a traditional Bhutanese home. The girl, on the left, is wearing a pink jacket and glasses, smiling. The mother, on the right, is wearing a green jacket with a white fur collar and pink striped pants, also smiling. The background shows traditional Bhutanese furniture and decor.

‘I could hear my teacher in the class, I could hear my friends and I passed the examination’

Case study: How a 13-year-old student’s life changed after her hearing was restored through the ‘Hear, Listen and Speak’ programme in Bhutan.

For the last year, Sonam Yuden’s life has become less quiet. She plays basketball, participates in cultural dances and has made more friends, with whom she spends time talking.

The 13-year-old’s life changed in 2023. She was 12 and studying at a school in the capital city Thimphu, about an hour’s drive away from her home in Paro. She was one of the students the school health coordinator referred to the hospital for a consultation after a screening for hearing loss was conducted at her school.

“The teacher said I had a hole inside my ear and that I will be seeing a doctor,” says Sonam. She recalls being hungry after waking up from the surgery and unable to chew her food. “But I had a good meal with soup and I was able to hear better after I started healing from the surgery,” she said.

Her surgery was done during the school’s summer vacation. When she returned to school after the vacation, it was a new experience, says Sonam: “I could hear my teacher in the class, I could hear my friends and I passed the examination!”

Until she had the surgery, Sonam says she had trouble learning in school. “I couldn’t hear what was taught in class and with my eyesight weak, I could not see the board clearly. So I had no notes to study and I failed in grade five.”

Sonam’s mother, Leki Yangzom says, the surgery has given her daughter a new life. “She can now hear us and tells me that she is able to hear her friends whispering. Until the surgery, she couldn’t hear us when we called out her name from behind,” Leki says. “We were worried how she would be when she grows up but now, we are happy that she is able to hear us.”



Reducing post-harvest loss in the cashew nut sector: The Gambia

Agriculture is a priority for The Gambia's social and economic development, and the issue of post-harvest loss was highlighted in its TNA. The country is also highly vulnerable to the consequences of climate change, including flooding, droughts and coastal erosion, which all threaten food security. Among its main crops, cashew nuts are gaining momentum with an upward export trend.

Why it matters

Cashews offer significant social and economic benefits to The Gambia and are ecologically crucial for promoting forest restoration and reducing desertification. However, 40% of raw cashew nuts are lost after being harvested. The quantity and quality of cashew nuts are often compromised during harvesting and in drying, storing, and packaging the product. Minimizing the losses would immediately boost income and employment.

About the project

The 12-month project is in line with The Gambia's National Development Plan and

the UN's Sustainable Development Framework for The Gambia. The UN Technology Bank is implementing it in collaboration with the Ministry of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology of the Republic of The Gambia with a partnership of TÜBİTAK Marmara Research Center (MAM) Food Research Group.

During an initial technical assessment mission in May 2024, the UN Technology Bank team met with farmers and cooperatives involved in the post-harvest processing of cashew nuts. These included the Gambia Cashew Alliance, the National Farmers Platform and the Gambia Cashew Farmers Federation.



Skills building

A follow-through skills-building workshop for 16 participants was held in Türkiye in October 2024. The week-long capacity building focused on post-harvest management with site visits to one of the leading institutions in Türkiye, TÜGİP Marmara Research Center (MAM) Food Institute. There, participants saw first-hand how low-cost technologies and post-harvest processing can enhance yields. Türkiye boasts a well-established nut sector and is the world's leading hazelnut producer and exporter with considerable experience in post-harvest management.

The delegation included officials from the Gambian Ministry of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology and the Ministry of Trade, Regional Integration, Industry and Employment and representatives from trade bodies, farmers groups, and academics.

In the port city of Giresun in Türkiye, stakeholders visited the Giresun Food Research and Test/Analysis Center (GATAM) to learn about the research and analyses conducted there. The group also spent time at two hazelnut processing companies and the Giresun Commodity Exchange.

The training concluded in Gaziantep, where they observed nut processing techniques and technologies, gaining valuable insights into how to adapt these innovations back home.

“What we have learned here will be of immense importance when we go back to our country to make sure we replicate some of the things that we have seen... to advance the sector in The Gambia.”

Cashew nut producer and exporter Abdoulie S Khan

Capacity building

Capacity building, such as knowledge sharing and skills training strengthens a country's ability to adopt and scale up technologies for sustainable development.

International Design Education Program

The International Design Education Program was launched in 2021 by the UN Technology Bank, the World Eco-Design Conference and the International School of Design at Zhejiang University, China.

It offers industrial design education to students to improve the skills and competitiveness of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Each year, the Program provides up to 50 scholarships, with 100 scholarships awarded so far. It also serves as an incubator to support student entrepreneurship. The Program's long-term goal is to boost capacities in industrial design for which there is an acute shortage in LDCs.

“This programme is going to be beneficial to so many countries, especially in Africa. We are here to learn and [will] to be able to give back to the community with the help of the United Nations Technology Bank.”



Kibolwe Mulundule Yannick
(Democratic Republic of
Congo), Student of the
International School of
Design, Zhejiang University,
Ningbo

The Technology Makers Lab model

The Technology Makers Lab (TML) model was piloted in Niger, paving the way for a broader rollout across the region.

Inspired by a successful example in Türkiye, these labs are strategically placed near schools to provide essential training in digital and advanced technology skills to:

- Generate interest in science and technology and ignite curiosity about emerging technologies.
- Create awareness of how digital and frontier technologies can address development challenges.

The pilot project was carried out in collaboration with the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency, the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye, and Türkiye's Ministry of Industry and Technology.

The training courses include design and production, robotics, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, mobile application development and coding. Skills in these areas aim to empower young people with essential critical thinking, teamwork, and knowledge of entrepreneurship. Capacity building has taken place in Niger with a dedicated training of trainers programme.

Training of trainers

In 2023, the Government of Niger selected five trainers to participate in a two-week in-person training programme in Ankara, Türkiye.

The training will facilitate the roll-out of the selected education modules for the academic year.

The program covered a range of topics, including Design and Production, Materials Science and Nanotechnology, Robotics and Coding, Programming and the Internet of Things, Software Technologies, Advanced Robotics, and Cybersecurity.

In addition to the in-person training, an online Training of Trainers is planned to further support the trainers once TML activities resume.

Frontier Tech Leaders Programme

In 2023, the UN Technology Bank and UNDP's Istanbul International Center for Private Sector Development SDG AI Lab launched the Frontier Tech Leaders Programme, supported by the Government of Türkiye.

The initiative aims to bridge the digital divide and advance the 2030 Agenda, emphasizing digital upskilling and emerging technologies as drivers of sustainable development.

Within a year, the Programme trained 107 Frontier Tech Leaders from 17 countries in Machine Learning, Entrepreneurship, Leadership, and Career Skills through three bootcamps.

Twenty-two leaders have established local chapters in four least developed countries, training over 533 individuals and running global community activities.



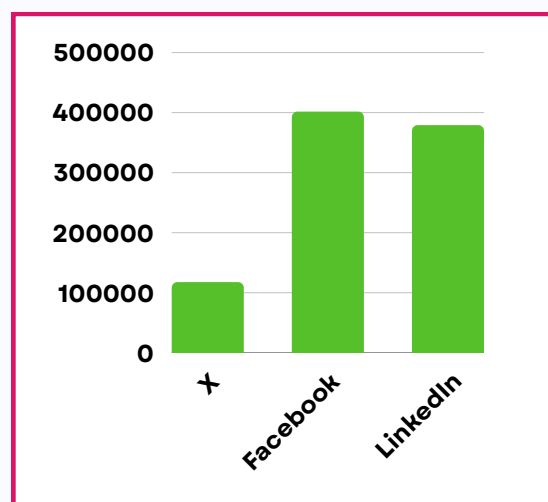
Communications and advocacy

Consistent with ongoing restructuring over the past two years and in recognition of the need to boost communications, the UN Technology Bank made a concerted effort to strengthen its public profile during 2024. This included the publication of blogs and opinion pieces, an increase in media interviews and ongoing efforts to link with other UN institutions and partners online and amplify the UN Technology Bank message.

Social media and the UN Technology Bank website

The total number of followers across all platforms increased by 20% during 2024, with engagement and reach higher during the last six months, compared to the first half of the year. Over the year, there were almost 900,000 impressions across X (formerly Twitter), LinkedIn and Facebook with 20,000 users accessing the UN Technology Bank website.

The launch of the UN Technology Bank Facebook page in May 2024 resulted in



Social media impressions 2024

524,000+ views, with 3,500+ followers recorded over the year. Posts covering substantive matters related to least developed countries (LDCs) and science, technology and innovation (STI) resonated well with followers, driving higher levels of engagement.

The UN Technology Bank's engagements with LDCs, development partners and centres of excellence resulted in increased user activity on X, LinkedIn and Facebook, following a corresponding increase in social media postings, news articles and blogs on the UN Technology Bank website.

Partner agencies such as UNOHRRLLS, centres of excellence and media outlets in LDCs reposted, tagged and liked UN Technology Bank posts, resulting in a significant increase in visitors to the website.

Opinion pieces/op-eds

Op-Eds

Substantively, the UN Technology Bank has started to regularly publish op-eds on high-priority STI areas through the lens of LDCs to shape opinion and influence the agenda by making a case for increased support to least developed countries in the science, technology and innovation space. Op-eds have focused on:

- [Powering Development with Science, Technology and Innovation - The Case for the Least Developed Countries](#)
- [A Pact for the World's Poorest](#)
- [UN climate summit needs action – not a COP-out](#)
- [Leveraging Science, Technology, and Innovation to Achieve the SDGs in the World's Poorest Countries](#)
- [Africa's Time – Delivering Transformation via Innovation](#)



Africa's Time – Delivering Transformation via Innovation

📅 13 December 2024



Leveraging Science, Technology, and Innovation to Achieve the SDGs in the World's Poorest Countries

📅 05 December 2024



UN climate summit needs action – not a COP-out

📅 08 November 2024



A Pact for the World's Poorest

📅 25 October 2024



Powering Development with Science, Technology and Innovation - The Case for the Least Developed Countries

📅 16 September 2024

Advocacy

Participation in international forums

In 2024, the UN Technology Bank actively raised its profile at key international forums to advocate for the needs of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). These engagements strengthened global recognition of the UN Technology Bank's role in advancing sustainable development for the world's most vulnerable countries.

- For the first time, the UN Technology Bank presented the **Secretary-General's report** on the work of the institution to the Second Committee of the General Assembly in New York. This has boosted the visibility and profile of the organization with a key range of member countries providing positive feedback on the work being done and full support being expressed by the membership.
- **Antalya Diplomacy Forum 2024** in Türkiye: The UN Technology Bank participated in a panel discussion on New Approaches to Empower the LDCs, advocating on behalf of LDCs.
- **LDC Future Forum 2024** in Helsinki, Finland, focusing on innovation, digitalization and technology to foster structural transformation and sustainable development: The UN Technology Bank presented on Building Innovation Capacity through Investments in Education and Skills Development.
- **The 9th annual Multi-stakeholder STI Forum** in New York. The UN Technology Bank co-hosted a side event: 'Unpacking the potential of STI for enhancing agricultural productivity in LDCs and LLDCs exploring technology's role in sustainable agrifood systems.'
- **The 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States**, Antigua and Barbuda: The UN Technology Bank joined several official side events to profile its work, including an event with the International Seabed Authority focused on promoting gender equality in marine science and fostering sustainable ocean governance.
- **The Commission on Science and Technology for Development, 2024-2025 Inter-sessional Panel**, Geneva: The UN Technology Bank presented its flagship Technology Needs Assessments at this intergovernmental forum supported by UNCTAD.
- **The Annual Meeting of African Science Academies**, Algeria: The UN Technology Bank gave the opening remarks at a side event on Maintaining Financial Sustainability with Independence, also participating on the panel, and emphasizing how academies and universities foster development.



Building partnerships



"The UN Technology Bank is a vitally important institution for the LDCs. Its mandate is closely connected to the vision we have in Eritrea in using science, technology and innovation to help drive our development agenda. Eritrea is committed to working closely with the UN Technology Bank to deliver relevant technological solutions to stimulate inclusive growth and development for our people."

H.E. Sophie Tesfamariam, Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations, New York and member of the UN Technology Bank's Governing Council

The UN Technology Bank has a forensic focus on building enduring partnerships to deliver results for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

The year 2024 saw a further step up strengthening of its relationship with the host country, deepened engagement with established partners, and the active pursuit of innovative, non-traditional collaboration. With this dynamic and systematic approach to partnerships, the UN Technology Bank is laying the foundations for future success.

Engaging client countries

As part of its renewed commitment to engaging with client constituencies, the UN Technology Bank prioritized the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in its outreach at the United Nations, in Ankara, and at global events.

Experts and National LDC Focal Points

In July 2024, the UN Technology Bank hosted 38 national experts from LDCs and United Nations Resident Coordinators from these countries at its headquarters in Gebze, Türkiye. Alongside the National Focal Points of LDCs, the meeting highlighted the value of Technology Needs Assessments and capacity-building initiatives while discussing accessible technologies and services. The dialogue laid the basis for sustained engagement at the country level with its core clients.

Ambassadors from LDCs

In August 2024, the UN Technology Bank held a briefing for 27 Ambassadors from the LDCs in Ankara. The Ambassadors outlined their national priorities and explored how the UN Technology Bank could enhance support for their development goals through targeted science, technology, and innovation initiatives. The meeting was also used to solicit inputs for the new Strategic Plan 2025-2027. This dedicated dialogue has augmented an ongoing engagement with LDC Ambassadors in Ankara, New York, and at global meetings.

UN General Assembly's High-Level Week - New York, September 2024

During the UN General Assembly's High-Level Week in New York, the UN Technology

Bank engaged with key stakeholders, including FAO, UNIDO, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, and representatives from Eritrea, Kiribati, Gambia, and Malawi.

Highlights included celebrating the inaugural International Day of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for the South and participating in a landmark AI event led by China and Zambia, focusing on building AI capacities for the world's poorest countries. These discussions reaffirmed the Bank's commitment to fostering inclusive technological progress for LDCs.

In recognition of the importance of strengthening ongoing relationships with well-established development partners, the UN Technology Bank sought to further consolidate its partnerships with Türkiye, the host country, and build relationships with partners such as Australia, the European Union, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

Forging new partnerships

During 2024, the UN Technology Bank reached out to non-traditional partners, with a specific interest in advancing science, technology and innovation.

These included China, India, Qatar and Saudi Arabia. The UN Technology Bank also sought to partner and build relationships with like-minded institutions and centres of excellence, in the Global South and beyond

Governance, accountability and transparency

The UN Technology Bank is governed by a 13-member Council appointed by the UN Secretary-General and comprised of member states and experts in science, technology and innovation and development cooperation. The Governing Council meets twice annually to evaluate the organization's work and approve the budget. The UN Technology Bank reports annually to the General Assembly. The current Council includes six Permanent Representatives of UN Member States, based in New York.

“As a representative of a direct beneficiary country of the UN Technology Bank, I am delighted and greatly honored to serve on the Governing Council. I am already witnessing the meaningful impact that the UN Technology Bank is making on the ground. It is exciting to see the Technology Needs Assessment that is unfolding in Malawi. I have full confidence that by 2030, the Bank will record tangible results in most LDCs.”

The Charter of the UN Technology Bank has provision for members of the UN family to participate in the Council. In this regard, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the World Bank participate as observers in meetings.

By the end of December 2024, the UN Technology Bank had successfully achieved a 100% implementation rate for all outstanding audit recommendations.

In line with its strong commitment to accountability and transparency, the UN Technology Bank has pledged to publish all future audit reports on its official website, ensuring public access and transparency.

H.E. Agnes Chimbiri, Permanent Representative of Malawi to the United Nations, New York and member of UNTB's Governing Council.

Operations

The UN Technology Bank's programme of work for 2024 continued to build on the measures introduced during 2022-2023 aimed at improving the organization's operational modality, streamlining the structure of the organization and enhancing its impact at the country level.

Mr Deodat Maharaj was appointed new Managing Director of the UN Technology Bank and took office in April 2024.

With the reform agenda successfully implemented, the focus is now on delivering the new strategic plan (2025-2027), a bold and ambitious agenda to deliver impactful change for the 44 Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

Human resources

During the review period, recruitments for all vacant positions have taken place. Given the mandate of the institution, every effort will be made in 2025 to bolster the staffing of the institution so it can deliver on its Strategic Plan 2025-2027.

New strategic plan

With a forensic focus on delivering results, the UN Technology Bank has developed its new Strategic Plan for the

next three years to present to its Governing Council.

The new strategic plan 2025-2027 has been developed through a highly consultative process with the full involvement of client countries, partner institutions, United Nations Resident Coordinators, centres of excellence, and the Governing Council.

The emphasis of the new Strategic Plan 2025-2027 will be on helping to drive transformation across its 44 client countries leveraging science, technology and innovation for results.

The key pillars will be: Delivering high impact policy advisory and technical assistance services; capacity building for transformation; and leveraging knowledge services for results. The focus will be on sectors where impact will be maximized.

The Strategic Plan will also see the UN Technology Bank undergoing a step change in terms of its outreach and partnerships to deliver results.

In addition to building partnerships with the donor community, every effort will be made to collaborate with centres of excellence and regional institutions including those in LDCs and the Global South.

The Strategic Plan will be delivered in close concert with well-established partners including the United Nations System working closely with the UN Resident Coordinators. At the same time, the UN Technology Bank will also develop programmes at the regional and global level especially in the area of capacity building to leverage economies of scale and deliver value for money.

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