

The United Nations Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries

The United Nations Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries is the primary entity responsible for building and strengthening the scientific, technological, and innovative capacities of the world's 44 Least Developed Countries (LDCs). The UN Technology Bank is pivotal in facilitating access to knowledge, technologies, and technical assistance essential for accelerated and sustainable development in these countries. The Doha Programme of Action recognizes it as a focal point for least developed countries on STI capacity-building for structural economic transformation.

Our mandate

- To strengthen **science, technology, and innovation** capacity in **least developed countries**.
- To help LDCs **access and use appropriate technologies** while respecting intellectual property rights and **building** their **capacity** to drive **transformational change**.
- To **foster partnerships** between public and private sector entities **in STI** and **promote cooperation** among researchers, institutions, and businesses within LDCs and other countries.

How we deliver our work



Fostering **partnerships** and mobilizing resources for STI through boosting human resource capacities and delivering low-cost, high-impact solutions.



Conducting demand-driven Technology Needs Assessments to assist LDCs in **identifying** the key areas where countries can take advantage of technological opportunities.



Designing technology **transfer** projects and programmes based on the recommendations of TNAs, tailored to specific areas in which technological solutions will deliver results.



Building national capacities in science, technology and innovation.



Facilitating **knowledge** and resource sharing for LDCs.

Snapshot of Our Work

Technology Needs Assessments

13 Technology Needs Assessments completed, with 3 ongoing. Technology Needs Assessments identify needs, gaps, and priority technological solutions relevant to the country's development goals. TNAs help LDCs pinpoint sectors where technology can have the most impact, ensuring these solutions are appropriate for the country's level of development. Each TNA provides recommendations for prioritizing and transferring essential technologies to the country.

Building knowledge

Through our research, policy papers, and partnerships with businesses and academic institutions, the UN Technology Bank strives to establish itself as a go-to resource for client countries and those invested in building LDC science, technology and innovation capacity.

Our results

Over **75,000** children
screened for hearing

2,100 children treated
in Bhutan for hearing
impediments

Hear, listen, speak: a programme for Bhutanese children is focused on improving hearing care for Bhutanese children aged 0–14. **It supports interventions to prevent and treat hearing loss** and has helped provide 600 hearing aids and 50 screening devices, as well as training 250 local professionals and strengthening national hearing technology services. The UN Technology Bank carried out the project in partnership with the Kingdom of Bhutan and Medtronic Labs.



Academies of Science serve as a bridge between government and civil society, offering reliable advice on science and technology to help shape national policies. **They support the economy and society by contributing to science, technology and sustainable development.** The UN Technology Bank and the Network of African Science Academies have helped establish science academies in Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho and Malawi.

**4 Academies of
Science established
in Angola, DRC,
Lesotho and Malawi**



100 scholarships
awarded to students
from **22** LDCs

The International Design Education Program was launched in 2021 by the UN Technology Bank, 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 LDCs.** Each year, the Program provides up to 50 scholarships. It also serves as an incubator to support student entrepreneurship. So far, 100 scholarships have been awarded.



In 2023, the UN Technology Bank and the Istanbul International Centre for Private Sector in Development, UNDP launched the Frontier Tech Leaders Programme, with the objective of **bridging the digital divide and contributing to the 2030 Agenda by strengthening local technology and entrepreneurial capacities in the LDCs.** Digital technologies and upskilling, particularly in the context of emerging technologies, is seen to be an important enabler of sustainable development. In less than one year, 180 students from 20 LDCs have been trained in machine learning and coding.

180 students from
20 LDCs graduate in
machine learning



**Assessment on
post-harvest loss
management in The
Gambia, including
capacity building**

Post-harvest loss management for cashew production in The Gambia: The project aims to boost the ability of cashew nut producers to reduce post-harvest losses in The Gambia. **The main goal is to increase income for cashew producers and create inclusive job opportunities by using technologies that improve the quality and quantity of cashew nuts.** The project was carried out in collaboration with the Ministry of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology of the Republic of The Gambia and TÜBİTAK Marmara Research Center (MAM) Food Research Group.



Our governance

Mr Deodat Maharaj is the Managing Director of the UN Technology Bank. He assumed this role, having worked extensively in the development space, including as Deputy Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, Executive Director of the Caribbean Export Development Agency, in various roles at the United Nations Development Programme, and in development banking. The UN Technology Bank is governed by a 13-member Governing Council appointed by the UN Secretary-General and with LDCs, other member states, key UN organizations and global experts represented.

Where we work

Map of 44 LDCs in which the United Nations Technology Bank operates (Africa 32, Asia 8, Caribbean 1, Pacific 3): **Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Kiribati, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen, Zambia.**



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