



UNITED NATIONS  
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION  
Progress by innovation

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# Supporting Africa's Cleantech Transition

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

**Global Cleantech Innovation Programme (GCIP)**

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# UNIDO: Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development

UNIDO is a specialized agency of the United Nations with a unique mandate to promote, dynamize and accelerate industrial development. UNIDO's mandate is reflected in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 9: "Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation".

## UNIDO thematic priorities:

**ENDING  
HUNGER**

**CLEAN ENERGY  
AND CLIMATE ACTION**

**SUSTAINABLE  
SUPPLY CHAINS**



Progress by Innovation

**9** INDUSTRY, INNOVATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



## ABOUT GCIP

# Empowering Cleantech Changemakers

The **Global Cleantech Innovation Programme (GCIP)** is led by UNIDO and supported by the **Global Environment Facility** and **Green Climate Fund**.

GCIP empowers cleantech startups and MSMEs in emerging markets to develop homegrown clean technology solutions for climate and energy transition challenges.



**17**

Partner countries



**1,850+**

Startups and MSMEs supported



**500+**

Cleantech experts trained



**>10M**

tonnes of GHG emissions to be mitigated by 2030

## TECHNOLOGY FOCUS AREAS



**ENERGY EFFICIENCY**



**RENEWABLE ENERGY**



**WASTE BENEFICIATION**



**WATER EFFICIENCY**



**GREEN BUILDINGS**



**TRANSPORTATION**



**ADVANCED MATERIALS & CHEMICALS**

# GCIP

NETWORK 2022-2026

GRANT VALUE OF

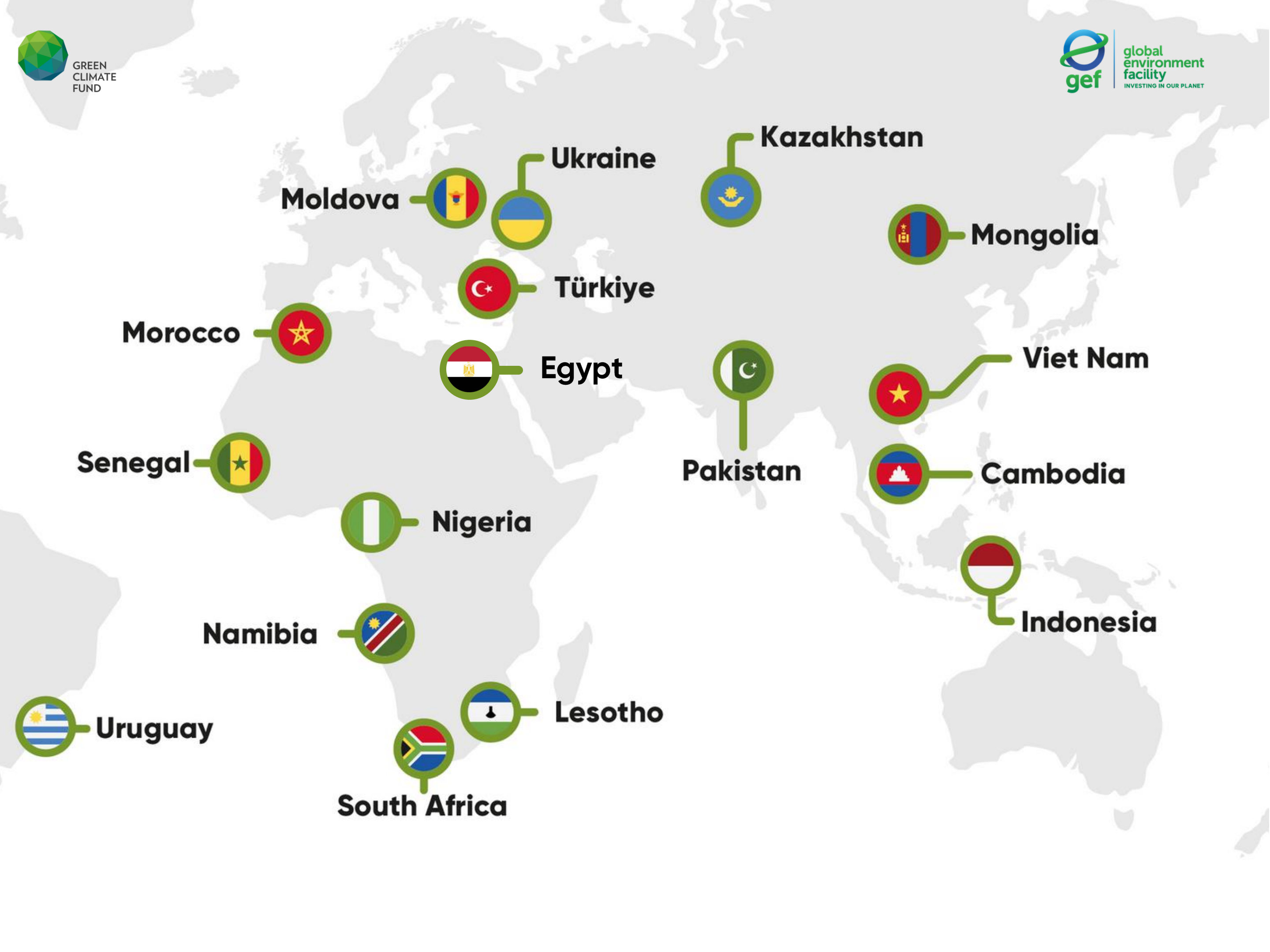
~**USD 30**

MILLIONS

**1850+**

MSMEs SUPPORTED  
TO DATE

GLOBAL  
COORDINATION  
PROJECT



## ABOUT GCIP

# Empowering Cleantech Changemakers



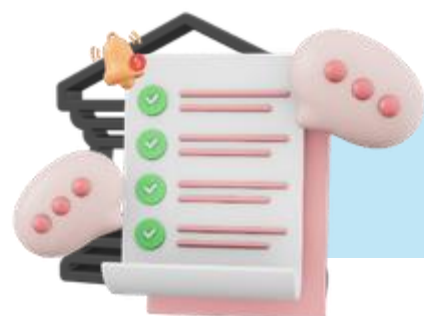
## Startup Acceleration

GCIP's progressive acceleration services model takes cleantech MSMEs from idea to investment-ready, scalable enterprises. It provides mentoring, business model validation, pitch training, and competition platforms.



## Ecosystem Strengthening

GCIP supports individual startups and builds the national infrastructure around them. This means training mentors, judges, and trainers, and working with government agencies, R&D institutions, and industry associations to create lasting cleantech innovation ecosystems.



## Institutional Capacity

GCIP works at the systems level, guiding policy and regulatory frameworks that enable cleantech entrepreneurship to thrive. This includes ecosystem assessments, including the flagship GCIP publication - the **Global Cleantech Innovation Index**.



## Global Connectivity

The programme connects 17 countries across four continents, facilitating knowledge exchange, cross-border learning and investor networking through its annual Cleantech Days and the global coordination platform. This is what transforms GCIP from a collection of national projects into a global network.

## GCIP IN AFRICA

# Supporting Africa's Cleantech Transition

### ● **Lesotho**

Two cleantech acceleration cohorts in 2023 and 2024. Totally 27 startups were selected in the cohorts. One finalist repurposing plastic waste to produce durable paving bricks securing their first supply contract with a major company in the country.

### ● **Morocco**

180 green entrepreneurs have been trained; more than 50 mentors have been capacitated to support green startups; 37 startups have received direct funding (since 2022)

### ● **Namibia**

Ten cleantech enterprises supported within the 1st cycle of GCIP accelerator raised 174,559 US\$ investment; two innovation challenges

### ● **Nigeria**

Three cohorts of innovators supported (2022-2024); these companies have created Over 7,000 jobs and raised over USD\$ 17 mln investment

### ● **Senegal**

2 cycles of accelerator conducted in 2024 and 2025; 25 semi-finalists in the 2025 cohort including 8 semi-finalists founded or co-founded by women. In the 2024 cycle, 19 enterprises supported

### ● **South Africa**

Supported 247 startups and MSMEs since 2014 through the GCIP South Africa acceleration activities; 4 cohorts within the 2022-2026 period; established the Cleantech Network with nine implementing partners nationwide



# GCIP as the growth catalyst supporting national systems for innovation

## **GCIP delivers on this role through a clear mandate and collaborative approach:**

- GCIP has a clear mission to identify innovators working on climate and clean technologies and help them grow faster, stronger and with meaningful impact.
- GCIP does not replace any institutions but amplifies what already exists within the NSI.
- GCIP acts as a bridge builder bringing all actors together - Ministries, universities, research centers, incubators and accelerators, private companies and investors.

## **GCIP is not an isolated programme but strengthens the national system for innovation by:**

- Helping researchers transform prototypes into real products
- Supporting entrepreneurs to survive and grow in competitive markets
- Providing policymakers with a clear view of emerging technologies
- Offering investors a pipeline of credible, validated innovations
- Giving the NDE a structured mechanism for climate technology support and deployment.

## EXAMPLES OF SOLUTIONS SUPPORTED BY GCIP

# Alumni highlights • GCIP Nigeria



**KOOLBOKS**  
L I F E I S K O O L

## TECHNOLOGY: SOLAR-POWERED REFRIGERATION

**KOOLBOKS** specializes in solar-powered refrigeration solutions. Their flagship product, the Koolhome Freezer, offers reliable refrigeration even without a power supply. Koolboks offers its refrigeration units on a lease-to-own model removing the financial hurdle people face while acquiring off-grid refrigeration. Koolhome uses ice battery technology, able to offer 24 hours of refrigeration for 4 days even in the absence of external power sources. The company also works with businesses that depend on refrigeration for income generation.



<https://www.koolboksnigeria.com/>


Source: <https://www.koolboksnigeria.com/>


## EXAMPLES OF SOLUTIONS SUPPORTED BY GCIP


# Alumni highlights • GCIP Lesotho


SPECIALISE IN THE ENERGY SERVICE

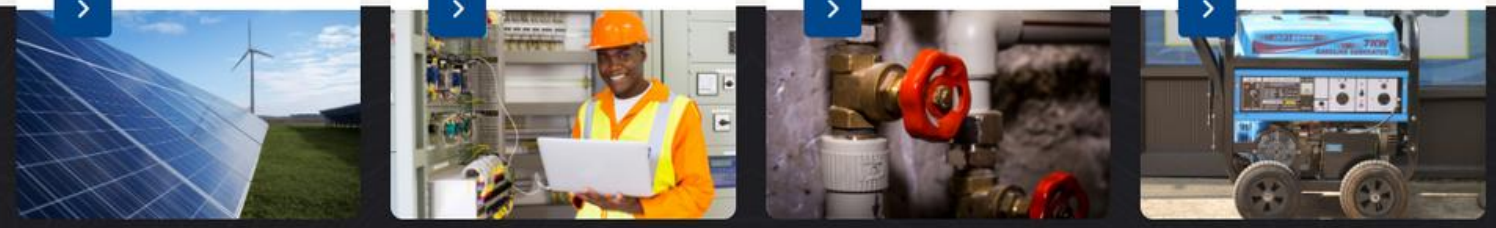
### Our Services

  
**Renewable Energy**  
Specializing in the supply and installation of solar power ...

  
**Electrical Services**  
Electrical services encompass a broad range of offerings ...

  
**Water Supply Services**  
Water supply services ensure reliable access to clean ...

  
**Powertools Rental**  
Our powertools rental services offer a convenient ...





## TECHNOLOGY: RENEWABLE ENERGY


**Mahlaseli Energy** is a renewable energy company providing solar off-grid solutions for water supply, solar, thermal and rural electrification in Lesotho. Mahlaseli Energy produces solar submersible pumps for farmers for irrigation and for spring catchments in rural communities. The company also produces solar lanterns and off-grid solutions for businesses, rural schools and clinics. Mahlaseli Energy's main Goal is accelerating access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy for all in Lesotho and attaining SGD7 in the country by 2030.


LASTEST PROJECT

### Our Latest Projects

  
HA FOSO, MASERU  
High Pressure Solar Geyser

  
MAPUTSOE, LERIBE  
High Pressure Solar Geyser

  
SOLAR ENERGY4  
Maximizing Solar ROI

  
HA-MAKHATHA, LERIBE  
High Pressure Solar Geyser



<https://mahlaselienergy.co.ls/>

## EXAMPLES OF SOLUTIONS SUPPORTED BY GCIP

# Alumni highlights • GCIP Morocco

Facilitate the **integration of renewables** on any type of **electricity grid worldwide.**

We support the installation of more renewables around the world in maximizing solar penetration while ensuring grid stability.

**50+**  
countries

**2000+**  
plants installed in 50  
countries

**15M+**  
hours of operation

**300+**  
customers EPC & IPPs of  
solar / hybrid plants



**ELUM**  
ENERGY

## TECHNOLOGY: RENEWABLE ENERGY

**Elum Energy** is an energy and automation company that supplies cost-effective monitoring and control solutions for solar energy systems. Elum Energy provides simple solar energy systems solutions that are suitable for many applications, from islanded micro grids to grid-connected self-consumption applications or mixed applications. They have a broad global network and have deployed their solutions in more than 50 countries and territories around the world.



<https://elum-energy.com/>



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