TURNING CLIMATE AMBITION
INTO INVESTMENT AND ACTION

UNDP ROME CENTRE

FOR CLIMATE ACTION AND ENERGY TRANSITION

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@ UNDP Rome Center

UNDP Rome Centre for Climate Action and Energy Transition is a global platform supporting developing countries to accelerate investment in clean energy and climate resilience, and empowering civil society to lead on climate action.

69
countries supported

33
active partnerships

90+
team members from 22 countries

UNDP Rome Centre's work focuses on supporting governments, project developers, financial institutions, and civil society move climate and energy projects and solutions from early concept to impact, unlocking the public and private finance needed to deliver real development results.

The Rome Centre provides comprehensive technical and implementation support across a wide range of climate action initiatives. This includes early-stage project development, financial structuring, environmental and social assessments, direct engagement with financiers to strengthen the bankability of projects, and grants and mentorship for youth-led climate solutions. Working through UNDP's network of country offices and in close coordination with development partners, the Centre builds pipelines of investable projects and young climate leaders, grounded in national priorities and aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Rome Centre currently supports a growing portfolio of programmes and projects across Africa and beyond, spanning clean energy access, industrial decarbonisation, circular economy, sustainable agriculture, nature-based solutions, and climate innovation. A central focus is ensuring that developing economies, and the people within them, can access the financing and partnerships needed to pursue low-carbon, climate-resilient growth on their own terms. Its work is made possible through a partnership with the Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security, combining Italy's climate finance commitments with UNDP's expertise and global operational reach.

The programmes presented in this brochure reflect the breadth of that work, each addressing a distinct set needs and investment challenges, and each representing a concrete step toward a more sustainable and equitable future.

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PISTA

PLATFORM FOR INVESTMENT SUPPORT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

PISTA helps developing countries identify and prepare climate and clean energy projects for investment. Working across Africa and beyond, it provides targeted technical assistance to strengthen the technical, financial, environmental, and social readiness of projects, and then connects them with the financing they need to move forward.

25
projects supported across Africa, MENA

8M
usd in technical assistance committed

up to
3B
USD in potential co-financing

What PISTA does

Bridging the gap between a promising idea and an investable project takes technical preparation and financial structuring, resources that are often limited in the markets where climate and clean energy investment is needed most. PISTA addresses this directly, working at three levels to move projects toward investment. It:

- supports the policy and regulatory conditions that make investment possible
- strengthens individual projects to meet the standards investors require
- connects those projects with financiers, investors and capital providers

The programme also supports governments in managing projects financed bilaterally by Italy.

Current status

Since launching in 2024, PISTA has been supporting over 25 projects across its two windows, committing close to USD 8 million in technical assistance through UNDP country offices. The programme is currently active across Sub-Saharan Africa, the MENA region, and Ukraine, with further phases planned to expand into the Balkans, Latin America, and Asia Pacific. PISTA is expected to help mobilise over USD 200 million from the Italian Climate Fund over the coming months, with potential additional leverage of up to USD 3 billion from co-financiers.

The programme was recognised in the Compromiso de Sevilla at the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development in 2025.

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ENERGY FOR GROWTH

IN AFRICA

Energy for Growth in Africa supports the development of clean energy projects across the continent, helping to close the financing gap that keeps too many countries from accessing the investment they need for a sustainable energy transition.

Working through a network of energy and finance focal points embedded in 10 UNDP Country offices, the programme which is a project preparation facility identifies promising projects, strengthens their readiness for investment, and connects them with the financing instruments and partners needed to move them forward.

What Energy for Growth does

Africa holds enormous renewable energy capacity, yet receives only 2 percent of global clean energy investment. Closing that gap requires more than capital. It takes sustained work on de-risking instruments, creating local financing structures, currency risk management, and project preparation, the kind of groundwork that allows large-scale investment to follow. Energy for Growth, a project preparation facility focuses on unlocking bankable renewable energy projects through targeted technical assistance, while facilitating investment mobilization by linking project developers with international financiers including development finance institutions (DFIs) and private investors. Energy for Growth in Africa was endorsed by G7 Leaders in the Apulia Communiqué in June 2024 and is implemented by UNDP with initial funding from the Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security.

The programme works through energy and finance experts embedded in UNDP country offices, who engage directly with governments, developers, and financiers to identify and support projects aligned with national energy priorities. The programme currently operates in 10 countries across Sub-Saharan Africa and North Africa.

Current status

Since launching operations in 2025, Energy for Growth has built an active portfolio of 14 projects across 5 countries. Four of these have secured technical assistance funding to strengthen their bankability, and more than 10 projects across Zambia, Kenya, and Mozambique are currently in active discussions with development finance institutions and impact lenders. The combined potential of these engagements points to over USD 1 billion in debt financing that could be unlocked for clean energy investment across the continent.

Scan for more information

Energy for Growth

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YOUTH4CLIMATE

SPARKING SOLUTIONS

Youth4Climate supports young people to develop and implement solutions to climate and environmental challenges. Through competitive monetary prizes, a global digital platform, and high-level events, the programme connects youth innovators with the resources, networks, and visibility they need to turn ideas into action.

200
youth-led projects funded across 68 countries

35K+
young people on the digital platform

50%
of funded projects led by young women

5.5M
usd in awards distributed since 2023

What Youth4Climate does

Young people are already developing practical responses to the climate crisis in their communities. Youth4Climate exists to find those ideas, fund them, and help them grow. The programme runs a competitive call for solutions open to young people from across the world, awarding catalytic funding up to USD 30,000 alongside mentorship and opportunities to present their work at international forums.

Beyond the monetary prizes, Youth4Climate hosts a digital platform where more than 34,000 young people exchange knowledge, discover opportunities, and build connections across borders. Annual flagship events bring awardees together with policymakers, private sector actors, and climate finance practitioners, creating space for dialogue that goes beyond youth participation as a formality.

Youth4Climate is an initiative implemented by UNDP Rome Centre in partnership with the Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security and the Istituto Buddista Italiano Soka Gakkia.

Current status

Since launching in 2022, Youth4Climate has received more than 7,000 eligible proposals from over 130 countries and funded 200 youth-led projects across 69 countries, distributing USD 5.5 million in awards. Almost half of all funded projects are based in Africa, and half are led by young women. The programme's digital community now hosts more than 35,000 young people across 104 languages.

In 2024, Youth4Climate received formal recognition in the G7 Environment Ministers' Communiqué, acknowledging its role in supporting meaningful youth engagement on climate and environmental challenges. In 2026, on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the Italian Republic, Youth4Climate featured in a Rai documentary filmed with President Sergio Mattarella, as an Italy-based example of global climate leadership.

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PARTNERSHIPS

FOR INNOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

UNDP in Italy builds and manages a wide network of partnerships that connect Italian and international institutions, financial actors, private companies and academia to sustainable development and innovation. By linking expertise, capital, and ideas across sectors, these partnerships help translate UNDP's programmes into concrete opportunities for collaboration, investment, and impact.

33

active partnerships supporting programme delivery

€ 100M+

mobilized in signed agreements and pipeline

In

2024

G7 leaders recognised UNDP in Italy as a hub of excellence for sustainable development

What we do

UNDP in Italy connects institutional donors, private investors, academic institutions, and development partners with UNDP's programmes and country-level pipelines, creating space for each to contribute what they do best, whether that is funding, technical expertise, networks, or research.

This work spans several types of collaboration. With Italian ministries and institutions, partnerships translate policy priorities into financed, country owned projects. With companies, foundations, and financial institutions, they create pathways to investment-ready pipelines and shared learning on sustainable finance. With universities, think tanks and research centres, they open channels for applied research, talent development, and knowledge exchange.

What we have built

UNDP in Italy's partnership portfolio has grown substantially in scope and depth. It now includes active collaborations with Italian government institutions, development finance institutions, private sector networks, and universities, alongside a growing pipeline of partnerships currently under discussion across academia, government, business, and civil society.

This network gives partners a practical way to engage with UNDP's global presence and country-level delivery capacity, while giving our projects access to expertise, financing, and platforms that extend their reach.

Partner with us

UNDP in Italy welcomes interest from companies, foundations, financial institutions, academia, and philanthropic entities looking to collaborate on innovation and sustainable development. To explore opportunities, get in touch at info.romecentre@undp.org.

Scan for more information:

Partnerships