

Concrete examples of country-driven strategies and best practices on just transition of the work force and creation of decent work and quality jobs.

(a) Title

Multi-year research-policy programme: Incorporating just transition strategies into developing and least developed countries climate policies

(b) Key characteristics

Building on previous Climate Strategies initiatives on just transitions (Initiative for Coal Regions in Transition in the EU), events (side event at COP24 in Katowice and international round table at COP25 in Madrid) and a [Reflection Paper](#) exploring the debate so far; a research-policy programme has been developed to explore just transition strategies in the developing country context.

As a majority of work in just transition is developed country focused, the objective of this programme is to provide evidence and insights to support the introduction of just transition strategies in developing countries. [Add a sentence on first phase which culminated in a reflection paper – you could argue that was a conceptual foundation. Add that the ref paper was sent out to all Parties] For the second phase of our work (2020-2021), we worked with in-country partners in three developing countries: Ghana, Colombia and Indonesia. They were selected due to their diverse characteristics and geographies.

The concept of just transition (JT) is explored and developed to different stages in each of these countries, and therefore each partner developed their own approach to stakeholder engagement which best suited the needs of their country. A final [report](#) was published which included these three case studies, and presented some overarching principles on JT and guidelines for national governments wanting to incorporate JT strategies into their climate policies.

In the third phase of our initiative (launched July 2021, duration 2 years) we continue to work with partners in Ghana, Colombia and Indonesia to further develop their JT strategies. We have also introduced 6 new countries; Bangladesh, Vietnam, Laos, Argentina, Kenya and Malawi, all selected to their political, social, economic and geographical diversity. One of the objectives for this next phase is to create a network of developing countries looking to implement JT strategies in their climate plans. Climate Strategies acts as a facilitator for 'south to south' learning, and we encourage these countries to share knowledge between them, finding commonalities in their similarities and differences.

Part of this programme has also been engaging with MDBs, donors and investors. Through interviews, we found that donors, investors and MDBs are becoming increasingly aware of the importance of sustainable investments and projects that are tailored to the specific needs of a country. They are important in the conversation as they have the capacity to provide key financial and technical support for governments considering implementing and exploring just transition strategies, furthermore they have leverage with governments surrounding their policy initiatives. In the second phase of this programme we will be developing these relationships and supporting collaboration between country partners and local financial institutions.

(c) Description of low-GHG-emission strategies or policies.

We recognise that low-carbon pathways need to happen across all sectors, not just the fossil fuel industry. Our strategy is to work with country partners to identify in which sectors JT strategies would make the most impact, which will be different in most country contexts.

We recognise and promote the 7 principles of JT developed by SEI which include: ‘actively encourage decarbonisation’ and ‘avoid the creation of carbon lock-in and more “losers” in these sectors’. It is then up to the partners to shape and co-create what their diversification pathways could look like, and we support the translation of these broader just transition concepts and principles into the local context.

One of the objectives of the first phase of this programme (with Ghana, Indonesia and Colombia) was for countries to incorporate JT concepts into their NDC. The Dala Institute (our Indonesian partner) effectively engaged with their government, and it was announced that JT concepts are included in their revised [NDC](#) and their updated [Long-Term Strategy for Low Carbon and Climate Resilience 2050 \(LTS LCCR\)](#).

(d) Impacts of identified strategy or policy on just transition of the work force and creation of decent work and quality jobs.

Each country we work with are at a different stage of their ‘just transition journey’. Therefore it has been identified that strategies must be driven by country partners, with Climate Strategies acting as support. In the same way, the impacts of each country’s JT strategy will be different. The impacts of phase 2 (9 countries), which have been developed from phase 1 are as follows:

1. Shift the mindset of governments that JT is relevant to developing countries by learning how it can be applied to different contexts
2. Increase active dialogue between governments and societal stakeholders
3. Influence government uptake of JT by working with providers of capital
4. Create a network of countries implementing JT in their climate plans

As mentioned, in Indonesia JT has now been included in their NDC and LTS LCCR. In this case the project will continue to work to implement these strategies and identify which sectors will have maximum impact.

(e) Identified challenges, opportunities and stakeholder involvement

This programme has shown the importance of local knowledge, expertise and contacts through the in-country partners. This is a huge opportunity as the insights gained from groups that have so far not been heard on climate policymaking, let alone just transition strategies, such as informal workers in Ghana. As each country developed their own methodologies, the next stage of this programme will focus on knowledge-sharing between countries to develop their own strategies.

Engagement with stakeholders in Ghana, Indonesia and Colombia was initially a challenge, mainly due to the different actors such as informal workers, or indigenous communities and the most effective method of engagement. To overcome this in the next phase of our programme the first activity for each country is to devise a stakeholder and communication engagement plan to identify who to engage with and the best method of engagement.

Another challenge was engagement with government officials. This was due to a variety of reasons such as government officials not being aware, or confident in their understanding of JT. Or in Ghana where government officials due to the political system and party politics were not as willing to cooperate with an ‘external’ project. In Indonesia to increase the understanding of just transition in the domestic context, stimulate discussion, and improve

the confidence of government officials taking the lead on the subject, a presentation was delivered by Dala Institute to stakeholders prior to each meeting. This included the background and history of just transition, the importance of just transition in the domestic context, and case studies of just transition implementation around the world.

(f) Lessons learned

A number of lessons have been learned from this programme, and these are addressed in the second phase with the 6 new countries. The major finding was that there is no 'one size fits all' approach to just transitions in developing countries; both the 'just' and the 'transition' part of strategy must be tailored to and defined by each individual country. In the second phase we encourage and facilitate 'south-to south' learning so that country partners can learn from and develop ideas with one another.

From this programme we also learned and understood the importance of establishing and maintaining relationships with relevant stakeholders to enable ownership of just transition in a specific national context. Secondly, this programme has highlighted the importance of local knowledge, expertise and contacts through the in-country partners to place people at the centre of just transition. By collaborating and co-producing climate strategies they can also address current and potential inequalities. Finally, the programme emphasised the need to extend the scope of just transitions beyond developed countries and realise the global scope of the just transition concept. The study gave some indication as to which actors are interested in being involved in discussions around what just transition means in the local context and how just transition measures may be implemented.

Going forward we will continue to disseminate our findings to increase overall awareness and understanding of JT in developing countries. There are anticipated challenges such as working with Malawi, where the government is expanding the coal sector, to co-create JT strategies that will have an impact in this context.