CURRICULUM GUIDE

UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT

2024

SDG INNOVATION

INTRODUCTION

THE UN GLOBAL COMPACT'S SDG INNOVATION ACCELERATOR IS A TRANSFORMATIVE INITIATIVETHAT ENGAGES YOUNG PROFESSIONALS FROM PARTICIPATING COMPANIES IN THE UN GLOBAL COMPACT.

This accelerator program is designed to harness the power of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a driving force for the creation of pioneering products and services.

The accelerator programme connects mid-level and junior professionals, aged 35 and younger, spanning diverse business units, with the goal of fostering innovative yet pragmatic solutions that can positively impact both the participating companies and contribute to the advancement of the SDGs.

This curriculum guide serves as a roadmap, detailing the content and resources available to participants throughout the course of the SDG Innovation Accelerator.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The 9-month accelerator program entails teams of young innovators working on specific challenges within their respective companies. Their primary objective is to ideate and craft sustainable business models, initiatives, and products that not only further their company's sustainability endeavors but also champion innovation, offering tangible solutions with potential market value.

The program uses a design thinking approach centered around innovation for the SDGs. It fosters corporate behavioral change by exposing participants to diverse business models and digital transformation tools that can be implemented within their respective organizations.

CURRICULUM STRUCTURE

The curriculum is designed to guide participants through the journey of identifying challenges, designing, and testing solutions, and validating these solutions for both business value and their impact on the SDGs.

A comprehensive set of resources, tools, and methodologies are provided, encompassing a blend of learning opportunities, including online and in-person workshops, team exercises, case studies, feedback sessions, and forum discussions.

PARTICIPANT OBJECTIVES

Throughout the **9-month accelerator program,** *innovators will:*

COLLABORATE AND ENGAGE

Engage in team exercises, interactive learning experiences, and peer feedback sessions facilitated by industry experts, mentors, and coaches.

Participants collaborate with peers and experts in a series of team exercises, engaging in interactive learning experiences. This involves brainstorming, problem-solving, and ideation to address real-world challenges specific to their companies.
Engaging with mentors, industry experts, and peers allows participants to receive valuable feedback, spar ideas, and refine their proposed solutions. It fosters a culture of constructive criticism and improvement.
Encouraging interaction across diverse business units and global backgrounds enables participants to gain insights from different perspectives, enriching the innovation process.

CONNECT GLOBALLY

Network with entrepreneurial peers from diverse cultural and professional backgrounds worldwide to leverage the SDGs for innovative product and service development.

Participants connect with entrepreneurial young professionals from various countries, leveraging the SDGs as a catalyst for developing innovative products and services relevant to their business. This global networking opportunity expands their understanding of diverse market needs and societal challenges.
Through interactive sessions, virtual meetings, and global feedback gatherings, participants build an extensive professional network, fostering collaborations that extend beyond the program's duration.

DEVELOP A CULTURE OF INNOVATION

Equip employees across various functions with skills to foster innovative solutions aligned with the SDGs through technology, initiatives, and new business models.

Equipping employees across different business functions with skills and techniques that promote innovation, participants learn how to integrate technology, initiate new sustainable projects, and develop innovative business models in alignment with the SDGs.
The programme emphasizes developing a culture of innovation within participant companies. Innovators acquire the skills to champion sustainable initiatives and drive change within their organizational structures. Participants learn to embed a sustainability mindset within their company's core, facilitating the development of strategies that contribute to both the company's success and the achievement of global sustainability goals.

PARTICIPANTS FOCUS ON DESIGNING SOLUTIONS THAT ARE NOT ONLY SUSTAINABLE BUT ALSO HOLD POTENTIAL MARKET VALUE,

aligning with the strategic objectives of their companies while contributing to the SDGs. The program's objectives extend beyond the 9-month duration, fostering a culture of lifelong learning, continuous improvement, and ongoing application of innovative and sustainable practices within their organizations.

PLATFORM
UTILIZATION

CURRICULUM BREAKDOWN

The UN Global Compact Academy platform is the primary mode of program delivery. The UN Global Compact Academy is a leading-edge online learning platform designed to facilitate a dynamic and interactive learning experience. The platform is accessible 24/7 from anywhere in the world, offering participants the flexibility to learn at their own pace and convenience, accommodating the demands of their professional schedules.

The platform allows for tracking and measuring participants' progress, offering assessments, quizzes, and progress tracking tools to ensure effective learning, and understanding of the course material. Participants will receive certification and a digital badge upon successful completion of the programme.

ON-DEMAND SESSIONS

Pre-recorded modules focusing on breakthrough technologies, disruptive.

Online

The on-demand sessions within the curriculum are designed as a comprehensive repository of pre-recorded modules that delve into a spectrum of innovation topics. These sessions provide a self-paced learning environment, allowing participants to explore breakthrough innovation concepts and sustainability within the context of business practices. They offer a robust foundation for participants to grasp the nuances of modern business trends, fostering a deep understanding of how innovation intersects with sustainable business solutions.

GLOBAL DEEP DIVES*

Live virtual sessions conducted by thought leaders on innovation, sustainability, and intrapreneurship topics.

Online

In contrast to the prerecorded on-demand sessions, the global deep dives represent a dynamic and interactive facet of the curriculum. These live virtual sessions are an invaluable opportunity for participants to learn from renowned thought leaders and experts in real-time. This live interaction ensures a richer, more in depth understanding of complex concepts, fostering an environment of collaborative learning.

INNOVATION CAMPS

Activity-based sessions where participants work within their company teams to generate and refine innovative solutions.

In-person or Online

*Please note that the Global Compact Office reserves the right to modify session descriptions and content during the course of the programas required.

The innovation camps stand as the hands-on, practical application phase of the program. These activity-based sessions are crafted to provide fertile ground for participants to engage in problem-solving, ideation, and solution development within their respective company teams. Through brainstorming sessions, and creative exercises, teams converge to explore, prototype, and test their ideas. The camps not only foster a sense of teamwork but also provide a platform for participants to apply the theoretical knowledge acquired from the on-demand sessions and global deep dives, allowing them to navigate the practical complexities of implementing sustainable and innovative solutions within a corporate setting.

MODULAR
APPROACH

THE ACCELERATOR TAKES
PARTICIPANTS THROUGH A
STRUCTURED DESIGN THINKING
APPROACH, CENTERED AROUND
THE SDGS. PARTICIPANTS PROGRESS
THROUGH FIVE KEY MODULES OF
THE PROGRAMME, EQUIPPED WITH
THE NECESSARY RESOURCES,
TOOLS, AND METHODOLOGIES:

MODULE 1:

SDG Exploration. Participants explore the core concepts around business and the Sustainable Development Goals to understand challenges facing business today.

MODULE 2:

Challenge Identification. Participants identify and prioritize specific SDGs and their relevance for their business as well as the business impact on the SDGs.

MODULE 3:

Challenge Definition. Participants find out how to use SDG impact and assessment tools to build a challenge that is ambitious enough for breakthrough impact and speaks to real needs within their company.

MODULE 4:

Solutions Development. Participants learn how to generate new ideas and use tools to move an idea from a concept into a fully defined project.

MODULE 5:

Solutions Testing and Validation. Participants move their project solution to a more refined version through testing and validation within the company and with external stakeholders.

MODULE 1
SDG EXPLORATION

4 WEEKS
February 1- February 28*

This module will be completely virtual, with a mix of on-demand and live sessions. Innovators will get the chance to explore the core concepts around business and the Sustainable Development Goals, to understand challenges facing business today. The module will introduce the concept of sustainable development, explain the evolution from Millennium Development Goals to Sustainable Development Goals, and offer some practical guidance on how to get started with implementing the 2030 Agenda.

On-demand sessions will focus on understanding the role of business in supporting the achievement of the Global Goals, prioritizing the Goals within business operations and sectors, setting corporate goals and targets that are adequately ambitious to support the achievement of the Global Goals and finally, integrating the Global Goals into a company's business strategy.

This module will also introduce concepts around the power of intrapreneurship to accelerate the transition towards business models, products, and technologies that align with the SDGs.

ON-DEMAND SESSIONS	7
GLOBAL DEEP DIVES	1
INNOVATION CAMPS	n/a

ON-DEMAND SESSIONS

WHAT IS INNOVATION?

Listen to the words of Steve Jobs, Richard Branson, and Seth Godin and you'll discover what separates true innovators from everyone else. It all comes down to dots. In his famous commencement speech, Steve Jobs said: "You can't connect the dots looking forward; you can only connect them looking backwards. So, you have to trust that the dots will somehow connect in your future. You have to trust in something-your gut, destiny, life, karma, whatever. This approach has never let me down, and it has made all the difference in my life. So, what is innovation? Those other dots. The ones others miss. And having the certainty to know that the dots you see are not only valid but necessary if the world is to move forward.

NO POINT GOING HALFWAY

A short film by Richard Curtis featuring Usain Bolt which helps explain why we should finish what we started with the Millennium Development Goals and end poverty by 2030 and tackle inequality and climate change.

WE THE PEOPLE' FOR THE GLOBAL GOALS

In 2015, world leaders agreed to 17 Global Goals (officially known as the Sustainable Development Goals or SDGs). These goals have the power to create a better world by 2030, by ending poverty, fighting inequality, and addressing the urgency of climate change. Guided by the Goals, it is now up to all of us, governments, businesses, civil society, and the public to work together to build a better future for ever one.

TAKING SUSTAINABILITY EXPONENTIAL

In this video, John Elkington of Volans introduces Breakthrough Innovation, contemplates on the U-bend f history, and discusses why the Sustainable Development Goals require something more than incremental change.

HOW TO ALIGN YOUR BUSINESS STRATEGY WITH THE GLOBAL GOALS

Is your company looking for ways to integrate the Global Goals into your business strategy and operations? Determining the starting point for your company's efforts to advance the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Global Goals and 169 Targets — may seem like a challenging task. Companies often wonder how they should prioritize the different Goals and how many of them they should target. In this Academy session, you will learn about a four-step approach to help you get started. The session will discuss how to align your business strategy and operations with the Global Goals to maximize positive impact. You will learn about the SDG Compass and success stories from other businesses. By completing this session and related learning materials, you will learn to:

> Integrate the Global Goals into our com an 's business strategy

> Understand the role of business in supporting the achievement of the Global Goals;

> Prioritize the Goals within your business operations and sector Set corporate goals and targets that are adequately ambitious to support the achievement of the Global Goals;

ACADEMY CHANGEMAKERS: HIBA KHAN

In this Changemaker session, hear from Hiba Khan about the importance of including the younger generation's voices in decision making and how to accelerate business innovation towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

SDG INNOVATORS AT THE 2023 LEADERS SUMMIT

Discover the innovative and pioneering solutions that have emerged from the 2023 cohort of the SDG Innovation Accelerator for Young Professionals. Innovators presented cutting-edge approaches and their presentations highlighted the unique and impactful ways in which they are tackling challenges, driving change, and fostering innovation in diverse sectors.

GLOBAL DEEP DIVES

*Kindly refer to your local network for the specific details of your local timeline.

Embark on a visionary journey exploring the vital role of intrapreneurship in shaping a sustainable tomorrow. In this session, we delve deep into the essence of intrapreneurship as the driving force behind innovative and sustainable solutions set to shape the future landscape by 2030.

Through engaging dialogues and shared insights from industry leaders and change-makers, **participants will gain a profound understanding of the pivotal role intrapreneurship plays in crafting innovative, sustainable solutions from within organizations.** The session aims to inspire, enlighten, and empower attendees to champion change within their respective spheres, contributing to a more sustainable and prosperous future for all!

INSIDE OUT:

Intrapreneurship's Role in Crafting Sustainable Futures by 2030

MODULE 2
CHALLENGE IDENTIFICATION

8 WEEKS

March 1- April 30

The primary objective of this module is to initiate innovators in the exploration of groundbreaking opportunities for their company through the lens of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Employing specific SDG-related tools, participants will gain insights into how their businesses interact with and influence the SDGs. They will be equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to articulate and recognize an SDG-aligned business challenge. Throughout a series of structured activities and sessions, innovators will acquire the essential tools and information needed to comprehend and define a pertinent challenge tailored to their company's context. This phase will introduce the first pillar of Breakthrough Innovation: breakthrough mindsets.

Overall, the Challenge Definition phase is a critical starting point, providing a foundation for innovators to identify, validate, and gain initial guidance on their SDG-aligned business challenges, setting the stage for the subsequent stages of innovation and solution development.

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GLOBAL DEEP DIVES	1
INNOVATION CAMPS	1

BY THE END

of the Challenge Definition phase, innovators are expected to have their proposed challenge statement validated by their designated Champion and, if feasible, other pertinent stakeholders within the organization. This validation process aims to ensure that the identified challenge aligns with the company's strategic objectives and holds significance within the broader operational landscape.

ON-DEMAND SESSIONS

BREAKTHROUGH INNOVATION: APPLYING A BREAKTHROUGH MINDSET FOR THE SDGS

What is breakthrough innovation and why do the SDGs call for it? This course introduces the basic concept of breakthrough innovation and the **three pillars that it comprises: mindsets, business models and technologies.** Achieving breakthrough innovation and market transformation requires first and foremost, a shift in mindset. This course will help participants to see how the breakthrough mindset is integral for achieving breakthrough innovation for their business. This course will also explore the huge market opportunities that the SDGs represent and why forward-thinking companies need to capitalize on them.

DESIGN THINKING: USING THE SDGS AS A LENS FOR INNOVATION

This course will provide an introduction to the innovation design process. The course will cover key concepts of innovation and design thinking methods and how theay can be applied to the SDGs and their challenges.

HOW SNOW WHITE HELPED AIRBNB'S MOBILE MISSION

To shape the future of Airbnb, CEO Brian Chesky borrowed a strategy from Disney animators. Check out this amazing inside story!

WILL NETFLIX SURVIVE THE COMPETITION?

Netflix is an example of a company that successfully shifted its business model multiple times and grew exponentially because of that. They started with renting boxed products through a mail service nationally (in the US) and shifted to delivering on-demand entertainment catering to diverse needs globally. The "all you can eat subscription' that Netflix offers, lets you watch your favorite shows anywhere and at any time you want. What did their innovation journey towards this success look like and what is driving the exponential growth?

GLOBAL DEEP DIVES

TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE INNOVATION:
Applying Design Thinking to the SDGs

This session examines the **application of design thinking as a driver for sustainable innovation in line with the SDGs.** Participants will explore how design thinking methodologies, centered on human needs and experiences, can drive solutions addressing the SDGs' challenges. Participants will understand the iterative nature of design thinking, focusing on problem definition, ideation, and prototyping to create impactful and sustainable solutions. The session will highlight the transformative potential of design thinking in crafting solutions that contribute meaningfully to a world in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals.

INNOVATION CAMP #1

The first innovation camp primarily centers on **delving into the methodologies and tools essential for recognizing and comprehending the impact of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on various industries and companies.** The focus is around equipping participants with the skills to map out which SDGs hold the most relevance for their respective businesses. This understanding will serve as the foundation for formulating their challenges, enabling them to craft innovative solutions in alignment with the most critical sustainable development objectives. Participants can anticipate an immersive and hands-on experience, ensuring they leave the camp equipped to discern their business's impact on the SDGs and possessing a directional sense of which SDGs should take precedence in their strategic focus for creating impactful solutions.

MODULE 3

CHALLENGE DEFINITION

8 WEEKS
April 1- May 31

The primary objective of this phase is to guide Innovators through the process of refining and validating their SDG-related business challenges. The training and activities in this module will center around understanding how to establish an ambitious yet achievable level for the challenge, ensuring it can create breakthrough impact while effectively addressing the core problem Additionally, this phase will introduce the second pillar of Breakthrough Innovation: sustainable business models, integrating the crucial aspect of sustainability into the challenge development process.

This phase aims to ensure that the challenges identified are robust, ambitious, and aligned with addressing the heart of the problem. Moreover, it emphasizes the integration of sustainable business models into the challenge definition, enhancing the innovation process's long-term impact and viability. Participants will leave this phase with a solidified core challenge, approved by relevant stakeholders, enabling them to move forward with confidence into the subsequent stages of innovation and solution development.

BY THE END

of the Challenge Definition phase, participants should aim to have their challenge statement validated by their Champion and ideally by other relevant individuals within the company. While the challenge doesn't need to be completely finalized, the core concept and problem statement must be agreed upon by their key internal validator (Champion) and the team, signifyinga mutual understanding and consensus.

ON-DEMAND SESSIONS	2
GLOBAL DEEP DIVES	2
INNOVATION CAMPS	1

ON-DEMAND SESSIONS

BREAKTHROUGH BUSINESS MODELS

This course will present an overview of what sustainable business models look like within companies. Participants will be able to ask themselves specific questions applicable to their own company on what models could be transformed to be more sustainable. The course will also provide an in-depth look at six key business model characteristics that are common among breakthrough and sustainable companies.

BREAKTHROUGH BUSINESS MODELS EXAMPLES

Breakthrough impact requires more than new products, technologies, or services. Business model innovation is crucial for companies to create long-term, transformative impact. The following videos showcase practical examples of breakthrough business models' companies are adopting to address specific SDG challenges.

GLOBAL
DEEP DIVES

LEAN INNOVATION:
**Strategies for High-Impact
SDG Implementation in
Uncertain Landscapes.**

This session is dedicated to **exploring the application of Lean Innovation methodologies in driving high-impact initiatives geared towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** within volatile or uncertain environments. The session will delve into strategies and practices aimed at optimizing the implementation of SDG-driven solutions, fostering adaptability and agility in the face of unpredictability. The session aims to equip participants with the knowledge and tools necessary to integrate Lean Innovation principles into their strategies for driving high-impact solutions and the discussion will revolve around fostering a culture of experimentation, learning from failures, and rapid iteration as key components in achieving success amidst uncertain landscapes.

SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH
CIRCULARITY:
**Strategies for Zero Waste
and Resource Optimization**

This session is dedicated to **exploring strategies and methodologies that drive sustainability through circularity, emphasizing zero waste and resource optimization.** Participants will delve into the practical application of circular economy principles and closed-loop systems, aimed at fostering a sustainable environment by minimizing waste and maximizing resource efficiency. Attendees will explore innovative approaches, best practices, and successful models that facilitate the shift from linear production and consumption to closed-loop systems. Through interactive discussions and indepth analyses, participants will gain insights into how circularity can be embedded within various industries, leading to efficient resource management, reduced environmental impact, and the creation of economic value from waste materials.

INNOVATION
CAMP #2

The second innovation will focus on **guiding participants through a structured process of understanding, prioritizing, and shaping ambitious SDG business challenges.** By leveraging a user centric approach and systems thinking, participants will delve into the core of SDG challenges, identifying end-users and engaging key stakeholders critical for impactful solutions. The sessions will empower participants to refine their understanding of specific challenge areas and apply methodologies to narrow and refine their SDG challenges for impactful, breakthrough solutions.

The ultimate goal is for participants to leave the camp with a better understanding of creating effective and ambitious SDG business challenges. By engaging with a user-centric approach and involving key stakeholders, they will be prepared to develop challenges that set the stage for impactful, breakthrough solutions benefiting their companies and society as a whole.

MODULE 4
SOLUTIONS DEVELOPMENT

8 WEEKS
May 1 - June 28

The Solutions Development phase represents a significant stride in the program's journey, emphasizing participants' comprehensive understanding of their SDG business challenges and the initiation of ideating potential solutions. This phase, along with the subsequent phase on Testing and Validation, will serve as a platform for participants to refine their ideas, focusing on narrowing down multiple concepts to one robust potential solution.

This phase invites participants to generate innovative ideas aimed at addressing their identified SDG business challenge. By the culmination of this phase, participants are expected to have outlined 1-2 potential solutions that they believe will effectively tackle their SDG business challenge.

The emphasis will be on concretizing the chosen solution through prototyping, feedback mechanisms, and validation from external stakeholders. Sessions will delve into the third pillar of Breakthrough Innovation, spotlighting disruptive technologies and their role in advancing the SDGs, particularly when integrated with the sustainable business models previously discussed in the camp.

While not expecting participants to become experts in each technology, the sessions will enable a comprehensive understanding of various technologies and their potential applications in addressing their challenges or solutions. Furthermore, **the sessions will spotlight pretotyping and prototyping techniques, equipping innovators with tools to develop and refine their solutions effectively.**

ON-DEMAND SESSIONS	1
GLOBAL DEEP DIVES	3
INNOVATION CAMPS	1

BY THE END

of the Solutions Development module, participants are expected to have a clear understanding of their SDG business challenge, having identified potential solutions for addressing it. They should have progressed from generating multiple ideas to narrowing down and refining one strong potential solution.

ON-DEMAND SESSIONS

BREAKTHROUGH TECHNOLOGIES

Now more than ever innovation is imperative to remain competitive and breakthrough technologies open the door to a new business era and have the potential to accelerate progress on the SDGs.

GLOBAL DEEP DIVES

FAIL FAST, LEARN FASTER:
Pretotyping and Prototyping for SDG Innovation

This session revolves around **the critical process of pretotyping and prototyping for SDG-driven innovation, emphasizing the philosophy of "failing fast" to "learn faster."** Participants will engage in an exploration of innovative methodologies to rapidly test and validate ideas, accelerating the learning process and refining solutions aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The session will focus on the concept of pretotyping, enabling participants to experiment with minimal resources, swiftly validating or discarding ideas before investing in full-scale prototyping. It highlights the significance of failing early in the innovation process to gather valuable insights, thus expediting the learning curve. Furthermore, the discussion will delve into the process of prototyping, illustrating how to bring refined ideas to life in a quick, iterative manner. Participants will explore techniques to build and test early-stage prototypes, aiming to gather feedback and iterate swiftly towards robust solutions. The primary objective is to instill a culture of rapid experimentation, emphasizing the notion that failure is an inherent part of innovation. By failing fast and learning from these failures, participants will accelerate the development of viable, impactful solutions aligned with the SDGs.

CLIMATE TECH REVOLUTION:
Disruptive Technologies in action.

This session is a **dynamic exploration into the realm of disruptive technologies and their instrumental role in addressing and combatting climate change.** This session is an immersive journey into how groundbreaking technologies are actively shaping the fight against climate challenges, driving innovation and transformative solutions. The session will spotlight specific technologies like artificial intelligence, 10T, renewable energy solutions, advanced robotics, and more, showcasing their practical application and success stories in battling climate-related issues. This interactive session will feature case studies and real-world applications, offering insights into how these disruptive technologies are being harnessed to tackle climate change. Participants will witness firsthand how these innovations are making significant strides in reducing carbon footprints, enhancing energy efficiency, managing resources sustainably, and fostering environmental resilience.

THE POWER OF AL, THE FUTURE OF BUSINESS.

The session is a **comprehensive exploration into the transformative impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on the business landscape.** This session delves into the pivotal role AI plays in redefining business strategies, operations, and consumer engagement, ultimately shaping the future of various industries. Participants in this session will embark on an insightful journey, discovering how AI is revolutionizing traditional business models, augmenting decision-making processes, and fostering innovation across diverse sectors. The session will showcase AI's capacity to analyze vast datasets, derive actionable insights, and optimize operations, thereby revolutionizing productivity and efficiency. The session will highlight the implications and challenges in integrating AI within business ecosystems, addressing ethical considerations, data privacy, and the human-AI collaboration paradigm. This session aims to equip participants with an understanding of AI's power in reshaping the business landscape, providing them with insights into leveraging AI for strategic advantage, driving innovation, and adapting to the evolving business environment. Participants will leave with a clearer vision of how AI is shaping the future of business and the essential steps to harness its potential.

INNOVATION
CAMP #3

The third innovation camp is **meticulously crafted to empower participants with practical methods and tools essential for generating multiple potential solution concepts aligned with their identified challenges.** Participants will work within their respective company teams, engaging in creativity driven activities to generate novel ideas and swiftly sift through them to identify the most robust concepts. The emphasis will be on quickly evaluating these ideas through the application of pretotyping methods, allowing for rapid testing and validation of the generated concepts.

Participants will be encouraged to think creatively, channel their collective innovation, and explore a spectrum of potential solutions. The ultimate goal of this camp is to instill a culture of creativity and rapid solution generation, providing participants with the skill set necessary to navigate through multiple potential solutions swiftly. By leveraging pretotyping methods and fostering an environment that encourages quick ideation and validation, participants will be better equipped to identify and refine the most impactful and viable solutions to address their unique challenges.

CURRICULUM GUIDE

MODULE 5
SOLUTIONS TESTING AND VALIDATION

8 WEEKS

June 1- July 31

The Solutions Testing and Validation phase is a pivotal stage that guides participants in measuring, assessing, and effectively communicating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) impact of their business solutions. This phase focuses on transitioning participants from ideation to real impact by setting concrete and ambitious goals for their SDG-oriented business solutions and comprehending how to effectively communicate progress against these objectives. Participants, having centered their solutions around SDG impact from the outset, will delve into creating clear and measurable goals and targets for their business solutions, aligning them with the SDGs. They will also gain an understanding of how to test solutions to meet user needs, define indicators, set targets, and establish reporting mechanisms to track progress against SDG-aligned objectives.

By the conclusion of this phase, participants will possess a clear roadmap on how to ensure their solutions effectively meet user requirements and are aligned with SDGs. They will be equipped with the skills necessary to set indicators, goals, and targets for their solutions, facilitating alignment with SDGs. Moreover, participants will understand how to report on the progress of their solutions when moving towards implementation.

ON-DEMAND SESSIONS	n/a
GLOBAL DEEP DIVES	2
INNOVATION CAMPS	1

BY THE END

of this final module, innovators will be ready for the integration of their learnings, skills, and projects within their respective organizations while showcasing their solutions. The module is focused on concluding the program for participants and setting them up for success with their solutions!

GLOBAL DEEP DIVES

USER-DRIVEN ITERATIONS:
Refining Solutions for Real-World Impact

This User-Driven Iterations session **emphasizes the vital role of user testing in refining solutions for real-world impact.** Participants will explore how involving end-users and their feedback guides iterative improvements. This hands-on approach showcases the power of user-driven iterations in enhancing solutions for maximum impact, ensuring their resonance and effectiveness in the real world.

MASTERING THE NARRATIVE:
Storytelling for Impact

This session is dedicated to **exploring strategies and methodologies that drive sustainability through circularity, emphasizing zero waste and resource optimization.** Participants will delve into the practical application of circular economy principles and closed-loop systems, aimed at fostering a sustainable environment by minimizing waste and maximizing resource efficiency. Attendees will explore innovative approaches, best practices, and successful models that facilitate the shift from linear production and consumption to closed-loop systems. Through interactive discussions and indepth analyses, participants will gain insights into how circularity can be embedded within various industries, leading to efficient resource management, reduced environmental impact, and the creation of economic value from waste materials.

INNOVATION
CAMP #4

The fourth and last innovation camp will primarily **focus on impact assessment, where participants will receive guidance on evaluating the potential effects of their proposed solutions on the SDGs.** Short, hands-on exercises will allow teams to practically apply these methodologies to their solutions, ensuring alignment with the SDGs and refining them for enhanced impact. In addition to impact assessment, this camp will feature practical and enjoyable exercises introducing diverse prototyping techniques. Participants will learn how to test various solutions, ensuring they effectively meet the needs of the targeted user groups and have the desired impact. These exercises will enable teams to iterate and refine their solutions, aligning them more closely with user requirements and SDG objectives. Participants will leave equipped not only with the knowledge but also the hands-on skills to develop, refine, and test solutions that are aligned with the SDGs and are user-centric, fostering a more meaningful and effective impact. Champions are strongly encouraged to engage in this camp, recognizing their pivotal role in the "offboarding" process for innovators, ensuring a smooth transition of the learnings and projects developed within the organizations.

CURRICULUM GUIDE

PROGRAM
EVENTS

GLOBAL KICK-OFF SESSION:

THE GLOBAL KICK-OFF SESSION SERVES AS THE FLAGSHIP EVENT INAUGURATING THE PROGRAM, SETTING THE TONE FOR AN IMMERSIVE AND IMPACTFUL JOURNEY AHEAD.

Featuring a lineup of renowned experts and thought leaders in the innovation and sustainability domain, the session offers a platform for insightful discussions and presentations. These distinguished speakers share their expertise, insights, and experiences, setting the stage for the upcoming program. The event unfolds with an engaging introduction to the curriculum, guiding participants through the program's structure, learning objectives, and the pivotal role they will play in driving innovation aligned with sustainability goals. The Global Kick-Off Session also acts as a platform for networking and relationship-building, enabling participants to connect with fellow innovators, mentors, and experts in the field, setting the stage for future collaboration and shared learning opportunities throughout the program Global Feedback Sessions:

These sessions are strategically designed to facilitate cross-border collaboration, foster idea exchange, and extend vital support to Innovator Teams at critical junctures throughout the program lifecycle. Taking place twice during the program's duration, these sessions offer a dynamic platform for broadening horizons and engaging in global interaction. Through these sessions, Innovator Teams are presented with a unique opportunity to connect and collaborate with teams participating in the program from diverse countries. The global setting enhances the experience by broadening their perspectives, fostering diversity, and stimulating a richer exchange of ideas. Participants are encouraged to share their progress, challenges, and breakthroughs with their global counterparts.

The purpose of the first Feedback Session is to allow innovators to share initial ideas around their challenge and sustainability related problems the teams have identified as being relevant to their companies.

Teams will be matched based on the industry their company operates in.

The purpose of the second Feedback Session is to allow Innovators to share initial ideas around the solutions they are working on.

Teams will be matched based on the theme that the solution covers.

THE LOCAL SOLUTION SHOWCASE

The Local Solution Showcase is an event hosted by the Local Network in each respective country, where participants will have the platform to present their innovative solutions. This event is a pivotal moment for participants to showcase their progress, sharing insights into their journey, the challenges they've encountered, and the potential impact of their solutions.

In this showcase, Local Networks extend invitations to various experts, including representatives from the UN, civil society, and social enterprises. These experts will be present to listen to the short pitches presented by participants. Additionally, our Networks aim to collaborate with other organizations that can bring similar value, fostering an environment where different perspectives and insights merge to enrich the discussions and further the potential impact of the showcased solutions.

The objective of this event is to provide participants with an opportunity to not only exhibit their progress and solutions but also to receive valuable feedback, insights, and potential collaboration opportunities from a diverse group of experts and collaborating organizations. Through these interactions, the Local Solution Showcase aims to foster an environment where innovative solutions can evolve, overcoming challenges and advancing towards their full potential impact!

SDG INNOVATION

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